

Ramos confident IPP review team will clear him

STORY
ON
PAGE A2

RP turns to Hollywood



IN THE 1970s there was Muhammad Ali and Joe Frazier in the "Thrilla in Manila." In the 1980s there was Pope John Paul II's visit and in the 1990s there was the Miss Universe pageant. Next year, Oscar-nominated American

RP/A20

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Nothing 'absurd' in Ople's terms to President

By Carlito Pablo and Christine Avendaño

SEN. BLAS Ople can vote in favor of the opposition bloc in the Senate and still get the Department of Foreign Affairs portfolio, according to an administration senator.

The source said this arrangement was not "absurd" and "completely unacceptable" as some administration lawmakers had painted it to be.

"There is no contradiction. Senator Ople can vote for the opposition bloc when Congress opens on July 22. Then he accepts the DFA portfolio and resigns," the administration senator said.

"With his resignation, who then will have numerical advantage in the Senate? The administration bloc," the source said.

The source said this was the context of Ople's statement that he would vote "in favor of the new democratic majority" in the Senate before he considered the offer of Malacañang for him to replace Vice President Teofisto Guingona Jr. as foreign secretary.

Guingona has resigned as foreign secretary effective July 15 due to policy differences with the President.

Ms Macapagal will assume the DFA post in a concurrent capacity until she designates a new foreign secretary.

Upon his arrival from the United States on Saturday, Ople said he would

NOTHING/A18

An opportunist masquerading as a statesman

By Amando Doronila

THE ARRIVAL statement on Friday of Sen. Blas Ople stamps him as a political opportunist masquerading as an elder statesman.

It also doomed the frenzied efforts of President Ma-capagal-Arroyo to inveigle Ople into joining her Cabinet as secretary

of foreign affairs in exchange for his vote to break the Senate impasse over control of that chamber.

Upon his arrival from his regular peregrinations overseas (read: junket), Ople confirmed he had been "sounded off on my availability" for the position, but he laid down the preposterous condition that an invitation "should not be tied . . . to the internal reorganization of the Senate."

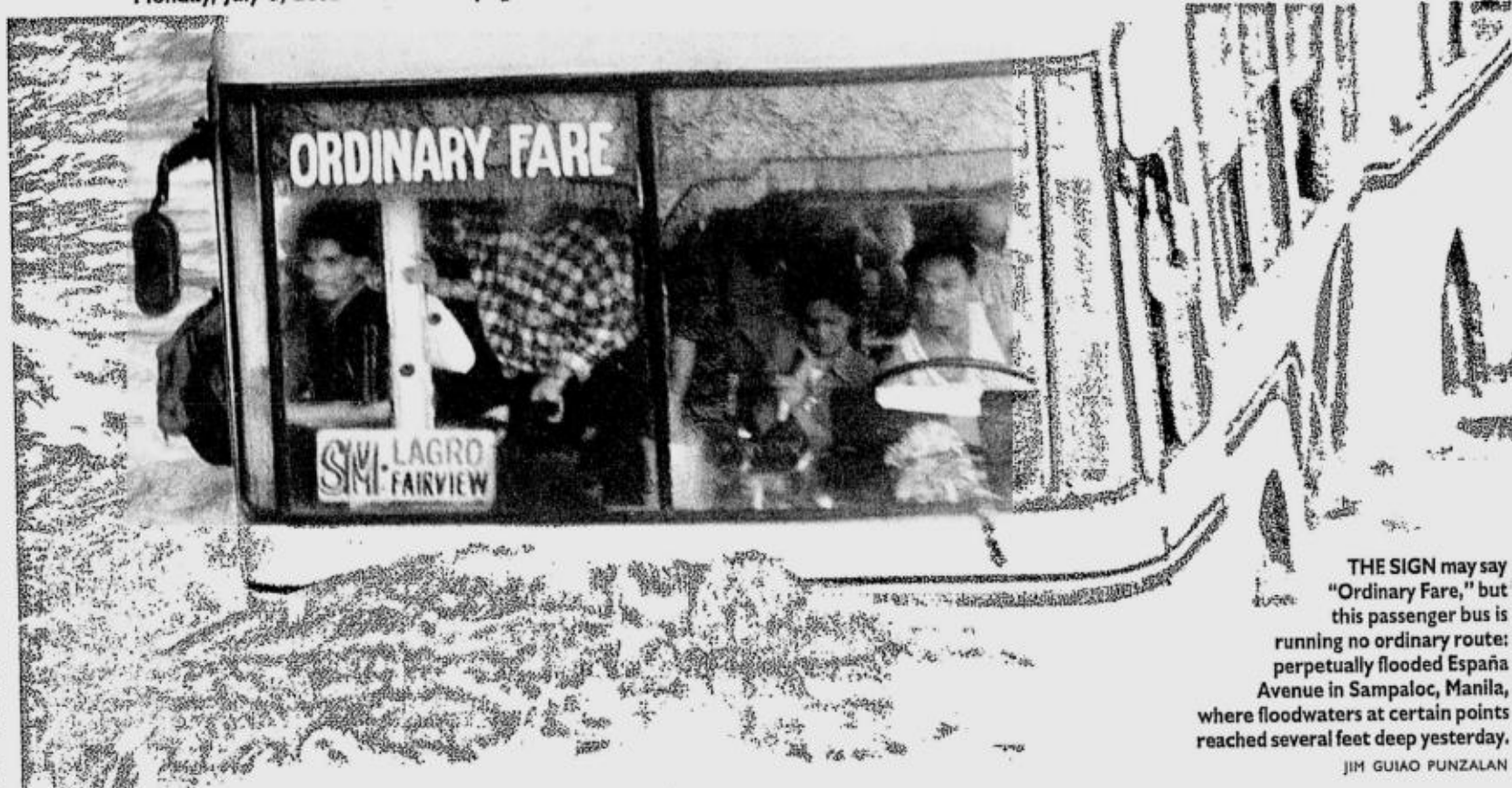
Ople said he would consider such an invitation only after he had voted in favor of the "new majority" that reor-

AN/A18



Monday, July 8, 2002 ★ 62 pages / 5 sections / vol.17 / no. 210 P15

website: www.inq7.net



THE SIGN may say "Ordinary Fare," but this passenger bus is running no ordinary route: perpetually flooded España Avenue in Sampaloc, Manila, where floodwaters at certain points reached several feet deep yesterday.

JIM GUIAO PUNZALAN

11 dead in typhoon

3 Koreans drown; DepEd suspends Metro classes

By Mei Magsino
PDI Southern Luzon Bureau
Martin Marfil, Volt Contreras
and Leila Salaverria

HEAVY rains triggered by Typhoon "Gloria" (international code name: Chata'an) and a low-pressure area off Batanes left at least 11 dead, including three South Koreans who drowned after large waves overturned their motorized banca "April Boy."

The Koreans, numbering 23, were sailing toward Batangas from Puerto Galera in Oriental Mindoro Saturday without permission from the Coast Guard. Two were reported missing.

The Koreans, affiliated with the Campus Crusade for Christ, were on a visit to the country to learn English.

In Olongapo City, the rains loosened tons of garbage from a landfill, killing a scavenger.

Four others were killed when a landslide hit a house in Tuy, Batangas, according to the National Disaster Coordinating Council (NDCC). Two drowned in Malabon, Metro Manila and in Cotabato.

Floods were reported in Zambales, Pampanga, Bulacan and Metro Manila. The floods, waist-deep at some places, stranded tens of thousands of commuters in Metro Manila and forced more than 4,000 people living mostly in low-lying squatter colonies to seek shelter in school buildings and town halls, relief officials said.

Weather forecaster Ricky Fabregas said heavy rains were expected to last "two to three more days" in western Luzon, including Metro Manila, and the Visayas.

This prompted the Department of Education to suspend classes today for elementary and high school, both public and private, in Metro Manila.

Fabregas said Gloria, plotted by the weather bureau at 1,400 km off Basco, Batanes, at 4 p.m. yesterday, and an active low-pressure area 450 km west of Batanes, were enhancing the southwest monsoon.

11 DEAD/A18



RESIDENTS turn a flooded street in Tugatog, Malabon, into a community swimming pool, complete with a neighborhood show-off doing a back flip into the water.

JIM GUIAO PUNZALAN

Summit to highlight kidnapping statistics

By Nancy Calauor-Carvajal

THE COUNTRY'S first anti-kidnapping summit takes place tomorrow—and for many it comes none too soon.

While police statistics obtained by the INQUIRER show that kidnap-for-ransom cases have gone down in the first six months of the year, compared to

figures a year ago, public perception remains overwhelmingly negative.

In part, this is because four of the five leaders of the Abu Sayyaf bandit group continue to evade military pursuit operations, and in part because an average of six kidnappings still take place every month. On the average, one foreigner is also kidnapped every month.

President Macapagal-Arroyo told the INQUIRER on Thursday that she would forgo her usual keynote address at the summit, and instead listen in on the session where "baseline" figures are presented.

Statistics from the Philippine National Police show that between Jan. 1 and June 24, a total of 45 persons were

kidnapped for ransom in 34 incidents. The total also includes six foreigners.

The numbers do not include kidnappings not reported to the police, either out of fear of the kidnappers or lack of trust in law enforcers, but estimates about unreported cases vary widely.

SUMMIT/A18

How electronic tag helped track Sabaya's whereabouts

By Fe B. Zamora
INQ7.net

AN ELECTRONIC tag. A satellite beacon. And Gracia Burnham's voice.

Like scenes from a Hollywood techno-thriller, electronic gadgets

and a telltale voice helped the military track the whereabouts of Abu Sabaya and his hostages for nearly two months, according to an INQ7.net source involved in the hunt for Abu Sayyaf.

The gadgets were smuggled inside

HOW/A19

Medical teams bring hope to South

By Blanche S. Rivera

HOPE, these medical missionaries say, is really what saves lives.

It was hope that they brought to the remotest and most dreaded areas of Mindanao during an outreach program in April. And it is what they will bring back this month to Basilan on another journey of healing and reconciliation.

The 24 doctors, nurses, dentists and

support staff from the country's leading hospitals are volunteers of Operation Blessing, a Christian organization dedicated to helping the poorest communities in the country and throughout Asia.

In their book, hope comes in the form of medicines, food, relief goods, toys, and free medical and dental services for neglected communities, whether Muslim or Christian, for two solid weeks.

Better still, the virtual medicine is dispensed in a specific manner.

"Our instruction is to make poor people feel they are the most important and highest-paying patients, because whenever we reach them may be the first—or last—time that they will see a doctor," said Kim Pascual, chief operating officer of the organization.

The group's mission to Zamboanga

MEDICAL/A19



Second FRONT PAGE

Ramos says IPP review team will clear his name

By Norman Bordadora

FORMER President Fidel Ramos yesterday expressed confidence that the just-concluded inter-agency reexamination of the IPP (independent power producers) contracts entered into by his administration in the mid-1990s would clear his name of suspicions of irregularity.

In a statement, Ramos said the committee report would pave the way for an objective and dispassionate assessment that would "finally tell us whether irregularities or frauds were involved."

In which case, he added, the wrongdoers would also be identified and held accountable. Before the IPP contracts were executed,

Ramos insisted, specific terms and conditions had been reviewed and independently passed by several government agencies that included the National Economic and Development Authority, the Department of Finance and the Department of Energy.

The latest committee report would help the executive and legislative branches of government to reduce electric power rates while respecting valid contracts, Ramos said.

Besides, he noted, "many of the IPPs have yet to be heard from." The committee recommendations should now give them a chance to speak for themselves and present their side to the people, he said.

Two opposition congressmen, as well as the Freedom from Debt Coalition and the Citizens' IPP Review Committee, expressed contrary sentiments.

House Deputy Minority Leader Rolox Suplico and Assistant Minority Leader Gilbert Remulla said the review was a "token effort" of the Macapagal administration to appease the public.

In a joint statement, the lawmakers said the committee didn't really intend to run after those responsible for the anomalous contracts.

Suplico said graft and plunder charges should have been filed against Ramos and other officials who approved the alleged onerous contracts.

"What Mr. Ramos did was the worst case of plunder," Suplico stressed.

Remulla asked why the committee did not review the contract between the government and the Argentine firm, Impsa. The agreement, signed only a few days after Ms. Macapagal became President, was the "worst and most anomalous of the IPP contracts," Remulla said.

The FDC and the citizens' review committee challenged Finance Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho and the inter-agency review committee to reveal details of IPP operations.

In a joint statement, the two groups demanded that Camacho expose the IPPs' actual violations, and explain exactly how they breached their contracts.

Both groups called on the government to compel the National Power Corp. to divulge results of the IPPs' reliability and capacity tests, immediately conduct another round of tests, and investigate non-Napocor IPP contracts.

They said the government should order Napocor to disclose the dispatch records of the IPPs, especially their average dispatch for the last two years.

"This information has been repeatedly requested during Congress hearings," the groups said, "but the Napocor has yet to act on it." With a report from Christine O. Avendaño

Protests, feuding hound 'Cong Dadong Dam' opening

ARAYAT, Pampanga—Weeks before its inauguration by President Macapagal-Arroyo, a P4.5-billion Japanese-funded dam here is being improved and still hounded by protests and feud from various groups in nearby Nueva Ecija.

The President is scheduled to open the "Cong Dadong Dam," named after her late father President Diosdado Macapagal, later this month.

Started by the late strongman Ferdinand Marcos, the dam, the main feature of the Pampanga Delta Development Project-Irrigation Component, took 26 years and four administrations to finish. Protests by farmers and Mt. Pinatubo's eruptions in 1991 had delayed the project.

The dam, built with an extensive drainage network, diverts water from the Pampanga and Rio Chico rivers to irrigate 10,270 hectares in Pampanga, the home province of the Macapagals.

Ending with excess funds, PDDP manager Reynaldo Mencias has asked the National Irrigation Administration in June to approve at least P100 million for the construction of an intake structure

and for the rehabilitation of more drainage facilities in Arayat.

Mencias said the additional facilities, located 6 km upstream of the dam, would provide year-round irrigation to about 1,800 hectares in Barangays Mapalad, San Mateo, Sta. Lucia, Sta. Cruz, San Vicente, Tabuan, Camba, Suklayin and Candating here.

Even as the NIA braced for full operation, the Nueva Ecija chapter of the militant group Sanlakas has demanded that the project be stopped.

Sanlakas, in a resolution in June, said the PDDP would use 12,000 has. of the San Antonio swamp as catch basin of excess water. The swamp is upstream of the dam and in the middle of the two rivers.

The swamp, a grassy area 20 years ago, is now a productive land planted to corn, sorghum and palay during summer, it said.

It warned that the flooding triggered by the dam's operations would cause widespread environmental destruction and economic dislocation of more than 1,000 farmers in Cabiao and San Antonio towns in Nueva Ecija. **Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk**

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2 NPA rebels killed in clash

ZAMBOANGA CITY—Army troops attacked about 20 communist guerrillas resting by a creek in Misamis Occidental, setting off a brief clash that killed two rebels, the military said Sunday.

Two rebels were captured during a chase following Saturday's gun battle

that wounded one soldier in a village of Tangub City, a military report said.

Army troops have stepped up patrols in the hinterlands of Tangub after about 40 New People's Army rebels raided an outpost of a pro-government militia near the city last week, seizing 16 assault rifles.

The NPA, armed wing of the Communist Party of the Philippines, is active in Misamis Occidental, a poor, coconut-producing province 770 kilometers south of Manila.

The rebels have taken advantage of the military's preoccupation with a major offensive against

the Abu Sayyaf to step up recruitment and acquire new weapons, military officials say.

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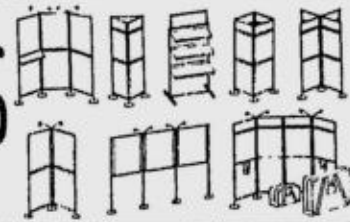
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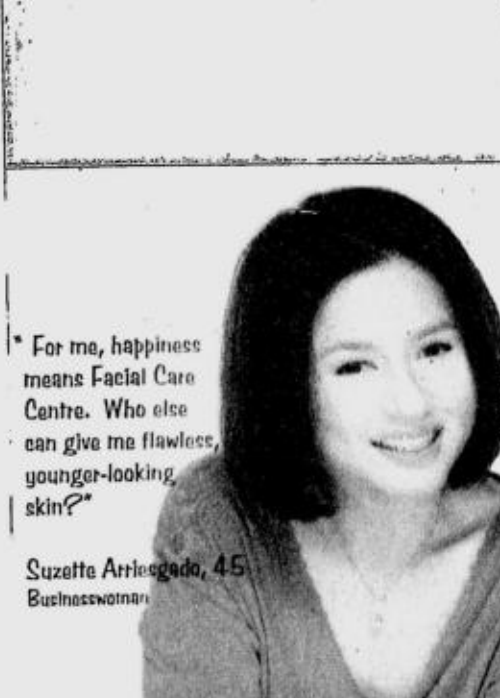
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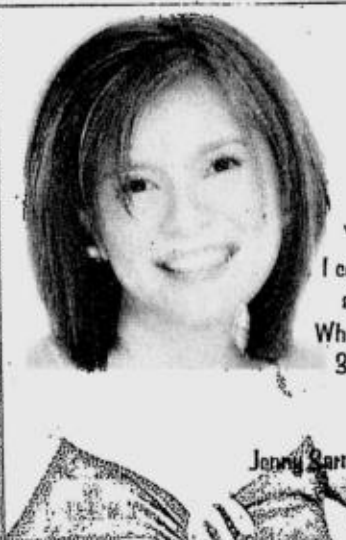
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'LESS COMPLICATED' LIFE

'Korean towns' quietly sprouting in RP

By Norman Bordadora

WHILE a recent Pulse Asia survey showed that many Filipinos want to leave country for greener pastures abroad, Koreans from the capitalist part of the peninsula continue to come to the Philippines for a similar shot

at opportunities and a "better life."

Through the years, a good number of "Korean towns" have quietly sprouted around the country, mostly near universities and other areas where they could find good tutors of the English language.

While some came back to South Korea after their education, others have decided to settle and start their businesses here.

"There is not much real estate in Korea to accommodate its people. People there live in buildings and it is expensive," Jin Ju Kim said.

"They come to the Philippines and they are surprised that people here can still have houses on lots," Kim, 24, said.

Kim, who has a Korean father and a Filipina mother, lives in one of the areas that have become a veritable Filipino-Korean community in Quezon City.

Communities

She and her family have lived in the community inside Don Antonio Heights in Commonwealth, Quezon City, since she was 5 years old. Other communities with Korean "settlements" are on BF Homes Subdivision

and Tandang Sora in Quezon City.

"My paternal grandfather was actually an officer of the Food and Agriculture Office of the



BUSINESS establishments such as this Korean restaurant and novelty shop on Holy Spirit Drive inside the Don Antonio Heights Subdivision in Quezon City show that Koreans have started building settlements in the country like the Chinese in Binondo, Manila.

United Nations. My father and his siblings came to the Philippines to learn English and have a higher education in the 1960's," Kim said.

Kim actually lived a Filipino life having attended Philippine schools before graduating from the University of the Philippines with a degree in broadcast communication.

"Until now, I can still see a lot of Koreans coming here to be accommodated in houses that have been put up for rent. Many of them are students, who want to learn English," Kim told the INQUIRER.

Kim said the recent spate of violence—the fatal "Ativan Gang" attack on a Korean diplomat and the kidnapping of a Korean treasure hunter—prompted Koreans to take precautionary measures.

"I guess it's all about taking care of one's self," she said.

"A good number of them are enrolled in the nearby UP, where there are a lot of Filipino students who tutor foreign students in how to speak English," Kim said.

Kim said UP could have actually helped spawn the Filipino-Korean communities through the years in Tandang Sora and BF Homes Subdivision.

"There are few universities in Korea and it is very competitive. So if they don't get admitted or they flunk out of school, they come to the Philippines to have a university education," Kim said.

She said staying in the Philippines was very affordable. "One doesn't go to Japan to learn English. One goes to the United States and that will be quite expensive. The next best thing for them is the Philippines," Kim said.

Reasons

What about those who have decided to settle here?

"Life is less complicated here. I still have loved ones in Korea but I enjoy brisk business here," said Ken Sung, a trader of anything considered "surplus" from Korea. His merchandise includes second-hand billiard tables, computer vans and computers.

Sung, who went through several units of Asian studies in UP-Diliman, agrees with Kim's observation that life is less competitive in the Philippines.

"I live a more comfortable life here with what I earn. To be comfortable in Seoul, you must have a fortune," Sung said. He requested that the INQUIRER not publish his place of business or residence "for security reasons."

He maintained that the death of the Korean diplomat at the hands of the "Ativan Gang" was an isolated case, though.

The Overseas Society of Koreans, on its website, placed the number of Koreans in the Philippines at more than 10,000.

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Top DepEd exec quits over disagreement with Roco

By Donna S. Cueto

THE DEPARTMENT of Education undersecretary for legal affairs has tendered his resignation last month following a disagreement with Secretary Raul Roco on his disapproval of tax exemptions for importations made by the University of Sto. Tomas Hospital.

DepEd Undersecretary Jaime D. Jacob had earlier rejected the application of UST Hospital for tax exemptions on imported medical equipment because it was not a registered corporation or considered an educational institution.

Roco ordered the reversal of Jacob's ruling and granted the UST Hospital an exemption on tax duties on May 2, through Undersecretary Ramon Bacani.

On May 6, Jacob sent a query letter to the Department of Finance on the matter, an action that Roco deemed an "affront" to his power of control and supervision.

Because of serious disagreement over the matter, Jacob submitted a resignation letter dated June 3 to Roco, saying he could no longer work with him since both had already lost trust and confidence in each other.

"It is now quite manifest that we have lost trust and confidence in each other, and it is no longer in the best interest of the service that we continue working together," Jacob said in his letter.

"I believe that our position on many issues critical to the administration and operation of the department are irreconcilable, that even a shared vision will not ensure for us a healthy working relationship," he said.

Jacob said he had to leave with deep regret, the department, the people and his mandate, which he had come to love.

"My deepest appreciation for the opportunity brief as it had been, to be of service to our country," he added.

Jacob, who also hails from Bicol as Roco, had been with the DepEd for only less than a year.

On June 10, Jacob

sent a letter to Roco—to which the resignation letter was attached—explaining his position in denying the appli-

cation for tax exemption on the importations done by the UST Hospital.

The hospital imported \$32,000 worth of medical equipment, for

which it was being taxed P49,155.

Jacob said he had learned that UST

was no longer running the UST Hospi-

tal, and thus could not be granted tax

exemptions by the DepEd.

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Baddeo, 66

HILDA Ibrada Baddeo, mother of fashion designer Eddie Baddeo, died yesterday.

She is survived by her children, Eddie, Bert, Linda, Rommel, Ramon Jr., Letty and Sammy.

Her remains lie at the Arlington Memorial Chapels on Araneta Avenue, Quezon City.

DPWH fails to recover P146M from contractors

THE DEPARTMENT of Public Works and Highways has failed to recover P146 million from contractors who did not refund advance payments made by the government for DPWH projects a year ago.

In its 2001 audit report, the Commission on Audit said the DPWH could have generated P150.7

million in interest if the agency had collected from contractors as of December last year.

The COA further said the DPWH should create a committee to go after the blacklisted contractors and file claims against the bonding companies that guaranteed the advance payments.

"Up to this writing, no single case had been filed," the COA noted in the auditor's rejoinder.

"Management should have instituted measures/remedies long before or upon the approval of the contract so that these unrecouped balances had not accumulated. This much," the COA said.

The DPWH had told the COA that it would recover P98,640,472.26 of the outstanding balance of unrecovered payments by deducting from other projects of the same contractor, filing cases and deducting from the final billing of the contractors.

This should lower the P146,107,256.99 unrecovered balance to around P47 million, said the DPWH management, although it has yet to actually gain the said amount as of this month.

The COA, in its 1999 audit report, had noted the unrecouped payments, but the DPWH still failed to follow the recommendations.

The unrecovered amount stood at P200.7 million in 1999, but the DPWH had collected 54,654,217.60 from January 2000 to July 2001.

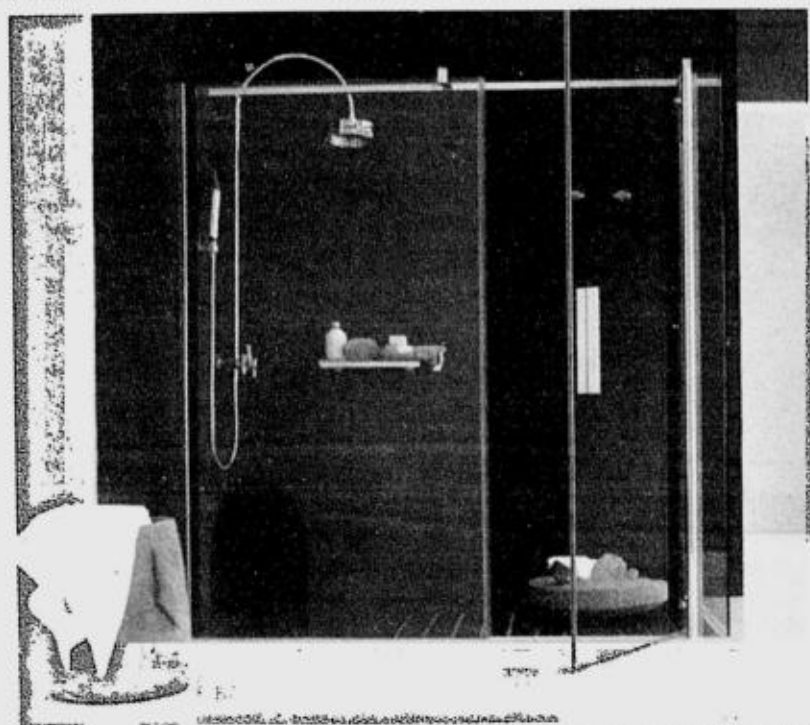
Under Presidential Decree No. 1594, the government is mandated to make an advance payment equivalent to 15 percent of the project cost to the contractor to be made in lump sum or in two installments at the most.

The contractor should then return the advance payment by having 20 percent deducted from his periodic progress payments with the first payment to be made after 20 percent of the project cost has been completed.

The COA said it computed the interest of the recouped payment balance at 6 percent per annum, adding that "had the management collected the amount, the same could have been used for other related projects."

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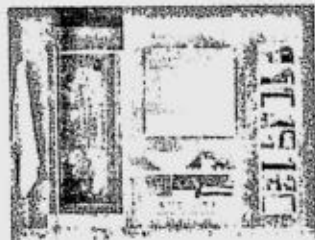


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Above all, the Air Force has decisively manifested its determination to protect the side of democracy, and the freedom of a proud people. When the going is rough and choices have to be made, the Air Force stood for the people and the duly constituted government.

For the past few years, the Air Force actively participated in relentless pursuit of the enemies of the state. Air power directed against rebel lairs and strongholds of local communists, MILF and Abu Sayyaf Group tallied for 70% of the success of war efforts in Mindanao. Then, too, are the periodic aerial reconnaissance and missions to deter intrusions at the Kalayaan Islands Group (KIG).

All these tasks accomplished by the Command have considerably taxed its limited resources and the present condition of its air assets, critics claim, is alarming. Yet, even to the point of sacrificing life and limb to serve, the men and women of the Air Force are unbowed and remain determined to conquer the odds. Critical public scrutiny thrown along the way have never been a deterrent to achieve beyond what is expected and then gear for a lot more.

We believe that the daunting difficulties that hound the Command keep the Airman ever on guard, to carry on and to take on the challenges. Every detractor fires up the determination to overcome and win. For the last fifty-five years, the Airman has lived up to its lineage of heroes and will continue to march on in service of God, country and people.

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MESSAGES



Malacañan Palace
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I extend my warmest greetings to the officers, men and women of the Philippine Air Force on the occasion of your 55th foundation anniversary.

I recognize the achievements and efforts of the Philippine Air Force in supporting the people and the Constitution. Your success in keeping the enemies of the state at bay and in check is a profound manifestation of your dedication to serve.

Your chosen theme for this year's anniversary "FIRST FORCE: First to Respond, First to Deliver, Proud to Serve" is, indeed, an affirmation of your pledge to be vigilant and patriotic.

I do know that you badly need newer air assets to match your expertise. We, in government, are finding ways to see to it that you will get what you need.

On this historic day of the Philippine Air Force, I urge all of you to keep up the good work. Together, we can overcome all obstacles for the welfare of our country and people.

Mabuhay tayong lahat.

Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo
GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO
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But more than being the key to a credible war fighting capability, air power supremacy is what will fast track the initiatives of government for maintaining a true and lasting peace, equitable and sustainable development, and most of all, enhance the quality of life of the people. Bringing the full might of air power to bear must not only target the enemies of the Republic in order to establish genuine peace, it must necessarily bring all the benefits of peace to the people, who have for too long been caught in the midst of conflict by bringing the instruments and fruits of progress even to those in the remotest of localities.

This is the new mission, the new vision, and truly the new direction of the Philippine Air Force. As it has so effectively demonstrated its capability to be the first to respond against threats to our freedom, the first to deliver for sustainable development, so we continue to be proud to serve and soar.

Mabuhay tayong lahat!

General Villamor
LT GEN JESUS VILLAMOR JR AFP
Commanding General, Philippine Air Force

Palace calls on PNP: Uphold 'instruments of authority'

By Carlito Pablo and Martin Marfil

ARE the provincial directors getting restless? Malacañang yesterday called on the entire Philippine National Police to uphold the "legitimate instruments of authority," amid reports of continuing restiveness among its officers.

Acting Press Secretary Silvestre Afafe Jr. issued the call in the face of reports that 30 provincial directors in Luzon are resigning their posts in sympathy with the seven ranking officers earlier relieved because of their supposed failure to stamp out jueteng, the illegal numbers game.

"We would rather that the entire police organization would support the disciplinary process," Afafe said. "The President, in fact, has instructed all provincial police directors to support the drive against jueteng."

The National Police Commission ordered the relief of the seven officers led by Deputy Director General Edgardo Aglipay on June 26 and denied their motion for reconsideration on July 3. But the Napolcom said the seven did not receive bribes from jueteng operators.

In a telephone interview, Aglipay said he would accept any post offered to him by new PNP chief Hermogenes Ebdane.

Aglipay said all he wanted to do was to "clear his name," and he felt the Napolcom decision had already done so.

"I only wanted to clear my name (which was being linked) to illegal things and I've been cleared already," he said.

President Macapagal-Arroyo told the INQUIRER last Thursday that Aglipay would likely go back to being PNP deputy director general for operations—his post before he was re-assigned to the National Capital Region.

Just rumors

A PNP regional director said he had heard "rumors" that some provincial directors plan to resign their posts to protest the relief of the seven senior police officials.

Chief Supt. Arturo Lomibao, regional director for Ilocos, noted that the plan had not yet materialized.

"There are rumors (about that) but so far, nothing has been done yet," Lomibao said, speaking in Filipino.

At least 30 police provincial directors are said to be planning to resign from their posts to protest the way the seven officials were ordered relieved by the Napolcom. The group of 30 is said to be planning to come out with a manifesto to express their support for the seven.

"It's unfortunate that they are planning to do this," Lomibao said, adding, "I respect their decision."

Asked whether some of his provincial commanders are planning to join the move, Lomibao said that "so far, there was no one."

Lomibao is a member of the board of trustees of the Association of Chiefs of Police in the Philippines Inc., an organization that had earlier vowed to fight for the seven relieved officials.

In Malacañang, Afafe said the President herself had stressed in a recent speech that "the principle of command responsibility will continue to hold."

"So all these are legitimate instruments of authority and all police officials are duty bound to uphold that," he said. "I hope all the PNP officers will do so."

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Angara's dirty spade

THAT alleged "intelligence report" linking Sen. Edgardo Angara to a reported May 1 destabilization campaign must have really hit a nerve, because ever since his dramatic "emergency" press briefing at the Senate on the eve of Labor Day, Angara has become decidedly moral: that is, he paints the political landscape in only two colors, black and white.

EDITORIAL Either that, or the Pulse Asia survey for late March and early April which showed him leading other officials in net trust ratings must have gotten to his head.

Consider the following:

In the wake of the mishandled Guingona affair, Angara waxed positively moralistic. He took the President to task for relying, he said, on individuals and groups without accountability. He was, of course, referring to the so-called Sikatuna group, led by former foreign secretary Roberto Romulo, which is reported to have been behind the Vice President's exit from the Department of Foreign Affairs.

"She should be a true leader," he said. "There are only two guidelines here: Trust them or fire them."

We wonder whether Angara gave the same advice to President Joseph Estrada, when he was agriculture and later executive secretary in the Estrada Cabinet. If there was an administration that regularly relied on individuals and groups without accountability, it was Estrada's. This was the administration, after all, where major decisions were made by a "midnight cabinet" or during extended mahjong sessions. But did Angara see anything wrong with Estrada's unusual approach to governance? On this matter the record of history is clear.

Or consider Angara's strident comments after the Pulse Asia survey of late May and early June. When it was reported that one out of every five Filipinos wanted to leave the country, he responded: "A political leadership that ignores education, health, jobs and people's welfare will always drive its people away." In other words, it was the Macapagal administration's fault, and its fault alone.

Perhaps, in all the excitement over the purchased power adjustment and the expensive independent power producer contracts signed during the Ramos administration, Angara has truly forgotten that he had a hand in creating the whole power mess. Let us remind him that, as Senate president riding shotgun on a Lakas-LDP working coalition, he had helped shape the legislative environment that led to today's unconscionably high power rates. These same rates are precisely among the reasons why more Filipinos today think the grass is greener on the other side.

Or consider, finally, the intense backroom negotiations in the Senate after he launched the "coup" last month. Saying he was calling "a spade a dirty spade," he scored the Macapagal administration for aggressively courting opposition members. The "massive efforts at breaking up the opposition in the Senate are anti-democratic and anti-good government," he thundered. He cast the ongoing struggle in the Senate in black and white. "Opposition senators going to the administration bloc smacks of opportunism," Angara said. "But if it's majority senators going to the minority it's another story. That's almost an act of heroism."

Almost? Not quite. Administration senators jumping ship won't necessarily be joining a sinking ship; on the contrary, any switch will be to the safer vessel—that is, to the side that will gain the majority. This much is clear to us, for whom a spade is simply a spade. But Angara, the former president of the country's premier state university, is content to play word games.

The result of all this is the shrilling of Angara's voice. In the past, he cultivated an image of moderation, as a man who can build consensus. In truth, especially during his ascendancy as one of the country's preeminent lawyers during martial law, he was the man who made things happen. That often required navigating through seas of gray. But ever since he received that "intelligence report," from an allegedly "unimpeachable source," he has heightened his rhetoric, painting the administration as irredeemably wrong. What he seems to have forgotten is that, even if one's palette is reduced to only two colors, a painter's busy hands will always be unclear.



'Jueteng' almost legalized in 1998

AS I SEE IT

Neal H. Cruz



FORMER REP Jose Macario Laurel IV of Batangas reacted to this column of July 4 proposing—if the government decides to legalize jueteng—how it should be done. (I did not advocate legalization but said that if the government is convinced jueteng cannot be eradicated—having been with us for more than a century—and decides to legalize it, it should not reward the gambling lords by giving the franchise to them. Rather, the franchise to operate the numbers game should be given to city and municipal governments so that they will have another source of income, prevent jueteng lords from having parallel and colorum operations, and stop corruption of policemen and other public officials by giving them a share of the profits of the legal LGU operation.)

It turned out that Laurel had a bill, House Bill 759, proposing to legalize not only jueteng but also masiao and other numbers games. It was approved and reported out by the Committee on Games and Amusement in 1998 but was not discussed and approved in plenary session because Edsa Dos intervened and there was a change of government.

Laurel had three reasons for wanting to legalize the numbers game:

"1. To protect the citizenry from the unscrupulous practices of the clandestine numbers games operations.

"2. To eliminate graft and corruption identified with the clandestine numbers games operated.

"3. To tap the numbers games as a rich source of revenues for both national and local government."

The bill proposed the granting of franchises by Congress, good for 25 years, to Filipino citizens or to corporations at least 60 percent of which is owned by Filipinos, to operate the numbers games. The grantees will pay franchise fees ranging from P1 million to P10 million each, depending on the class of municipality or city in which they would operate.

Proceeds from these franchise fees shall go to the national (40 percent), and local (30 percent) governments, and another 30 percent to charitable organizations. The share of the local government shall be divided among the provincial, city, municipal and barangay governments.

Thirty-six percent of the gross earnings of the franchise holder shall be remitted to the government monthly. Half of that share shall go to the host city or municipality and the other half shall be remitted to the barangays.

The drawing of the winning numbers shall be held in the city or town plaza or any public place and shall be supervised by the Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corp. (Pagcor). The host government shall shoulder the expenses for supervising the drawing of winning numbers in their areas of jurisdiction.

Franchise holders shall pay the appropriate taxes under the existing laws and ordinances.

Two major flaws immediately become apparent in the Laurel bill. One is that the franchise will be granted to individuals and corporations, not to LGUs. Therefore, these franchises will eventually end up in the hands of the present gambling lords and influential government officials. Therefore, that will reward them for decades of violating our laws.

The other flaw is that the policemen and local government officials and employees have no share in the earnings of the numbers game. These are the protectors of the jueteng operations. They are corrupted by the generous bribes of the jueteng lords. Even if the LGUs operate the legal jueteng, the gambling lords

will continue to have colorum operations and, continue to bribe their protectors.

But if these policemen and local government personnel share in the income of jueteng in their areas of jurisdiction, they would expose, resist and fight colorum jueteng. Because the bigger the earnings of the legal jueteng, the bigger their shares. And if the colorum jueteng eat up into those legal earnings, their share would be reduced.

That should stop the payola. And we won't have the tawdry spectacle of police generals (and the president of the nation) being sacked for accepting jueteng.

The legal LGU jueteng should also provide more employment as the LGU hires more cobradores and kabos. After all, they are paid only on commission basis.

And since proceeds of jueteng will be spent for infrastructure and other service to the residents, they will patronize only the LGU operations, knowing that their bets will go back to them in the form of services.

The Laurel bill has a third, but minor flaw. It limits the drawing of winning numbers to only once daily. That gives the gambling lords an opportunity to operate colorum second and third draws for themselves. Let the LGU have draws as often as demand dictates to really eradicate illegal gambling.

However, if a majority of residents don't want jueteng in their own town or city, no franchise should be given to that LGU. Residents should be given the opportunity to oppose the granting of franchise to their LGU.

According to Laurel, jueteng played a good role in the 1896 Revolution against Spain. The revolutionists raised funds for their struggle through jueteng. That is why the Spaniards hated jueteng so much that it included jueteng among the prohibited games in the Penal Code. That is the only law in the Philippines that outlaws jueteng, Laurel said. Remove that one word, jueteng, by an amendment to the Penal Code and jueteng will cease to be illegal.

Still, foreign policy

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros



I LEAVE others to debate to their hearts' content whether Blas Ople's ascension to the post of foreign secretary will alter the balance of power in the Senate or not. Indeed, I leave them to debate to their hearts' content whether Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo's determined courtship of Ople to replace Teofisto Guingona is a show of tactical brilliance or a display of innate opportunism.

Those are valid concerns, but there is a broader, and far more urgent, one. That is whether Ople would be good for our foreign policy. Foreign policy, that is, in the sense of defense of the national interest and not the foreign one.

I've read comments by several people saying Ms Macapagal is taking a big gamble on Ople, even risking the possibility he might reverse the course she has taken. Ople, after all, has a reputation for being a nationalist. Ms Macapagal doesn't know what she's in for.

Not at all. I like Ople personally, he is a picaresque character who still has a twinkle in his eye despite the ravages of age and ailment. I don't know if he still drinks, the one thing he, like the legendary Arsenio Lacson, the best mayor Manila ever had, became famous for. And I don't know if he still smokes: I know he quit it after suffering a stroke in the mid-1990s. I am glad at least no one has drawn attention to his age and health the way people did about Jovito Salonga when he ran for president. It's stupid. I'd always prefer a wise man at his deathbed to a foolish one in his prime to build the world my children will grow up in.

But I can't see that that wise man is Ople, deathbed or not. I do know one thing, which is that the days when he would go to someone's house, wait patiently while the maid rouses up the master of the house, and hit the fellow squarely in the jaw as soon as he makes an appearance for making some nasty remarks on a newspaper, are over. Ople lost his pugnacity during the Marcos years, particularly after martial law. Along with that pugnacity went the nationalism he learned from his activist youth. Only the reputation remained, the sub-

stance disappeared along the way. Probably a long way along the way.

Ople himself reminded us of that some days ago, when he spoke of having worked with Macapagal-Arroyo on a foreign policy issue. That was true: they had. Ople was the main sponsor of the bill calling for the ratification of GATT and placing the country under the World Trade Organization. A bill that was protested bitterly by people like Walden Bello—he challenged three people, including the trade secretary, all at once to a public debate—who agreed that globalization was inevitable but not the globalization represented by GATT. It was a globalization, they said, that clearly favored the North and discriminated against the South, its hypocrisy being shown up in the totally restrictive "intellectual property" agreement it brought in tow.

I remember it well. I sat on the Senate gallery for the most part of that debate. Ople then was just recovering from a stroke and was reduced to a silent spectator. It was Sen. Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo who took up the cudgels for the bill, though the task would probably have fallen on her anyway even if Ople had been completely healthy. That was her turf. The ayes had it in the end. A couple of years later, a financial crisis hit the Asian region, which burst the bubble on the tiger economies as Bello had predicted, refuting swiftly and thoroughly the economic heaven the GATT advocates had promised. Most of the hardest hit countries, like Indonesia, have yet to recover.

Ople himself did recover, at least from his physical injuries, and went on to champion the VFA, along with Orly Mercado, who used to be known as a nationalist as well before he fell in

league with one Joseph Estrada, whom he served as defense chief. Only five senators voted against it, including—are you surprised?—Teofisto Guingona, who had six years before he voted against the renewal of the bases treaty. He is the man Ople is replacing as architect of our foreign policy. What Ople's sentiments on the return of the American military presence are, only he knows, but he has certainly not uttered a word against them, a far cry from the days when he fulminated against the US bases and spoiled for a fight in bars with "ugly Americans."

In the best of circumstances, if Ople had remained a staunch nationalist, I'd still have worried about his ability to put his stamp on foreign policy, particularly in these days of renewed "special relations." Public office has a way of changing people more than people public office. If my friend, Bobi Tiglao, can find his way to embracing the Balikatan exercises after a lifetime of scolding them, anybody can. But you start out being already compromised, I do not know what else you can do.

All it says to me in any case is that we can't really depend on our public officials to make our foreign policy for us. We have to do it ourselves. We continue to produce surveys that say George Bush is the most credible person in this country and a fifth of the population wants to live abroad, we will always have a foreign policy that is foreign to us. Whether it's Guingona or Ople we put there. Whether it's Gloria or FPJ we put there.

Of course you never know. Maybe Ka Blas will prove me wrong. Maybe the "Ka" will assert itself. Looking at the world from the edge of the precipice, wondering what lies at the bottom of the pit, has been known to give people a Blas of courage, or a overwhelming desire to bequeath something to the next generation. It has been known to make young fools grow into wise men and not just old fools.

But I am not holding my breath, waiting for it to happen with hushed expectation.

Comments to dequiros@vasia.com

'Jueteng' wiped out if governors and PNP agree

IN A WEEK of controversial decisions by the executive branch, Secretary Joey Lina of the Department of Interior and Local Governments and chair of the National Police commission (Napolcom) asked to meet with a handful of columnists a few evenings ago, to explain the Napolcom's controversial decision last June 25 to relieve seven police generals of their command, over their failure to arrest *jueteng* in their respective areas and gain public support for it. That decision assumed high profile not only because a number of generals were sacked, but also because some of them are quite prominent. Lina says he's personally close to National Capital Region's Chief Edgardo Aglipay, while PC Supt. Reynaldo Berroya is perceived to be close to First Gentleman Mike Arroyo and the First Family. Region VII Chief Avelino Razon, who immediately filed his resignation from the service upon his relief, is perceived as being quite close to former President and PC Chief Fidel Ramos. Lina also said he "agonized" over the relief of PS Supt. Leonilo de la Cruz, the provincial commander in his home province of Laguna.

Two days after their relief, the police generals filed a motion for reconsideration with the Napolcom, but it denied their petition in a unanimous en banc decision last July 3. As though to balance its denial, however, the Napolcom was careful to state that it had no evidence that the generals were "on the take." It also stressed that while the police generals would have their day in court to answer the charges against them, it will spare them from undergoing "the rigors of pre-charge investigation for administrative and criminal culpability" as it stressed that it "never intended to cause the relieved officers embarrassment and demoralization."

One might say this is a typical Filipino way of resolving disputes, but this disclaimer has led some sectors that had initially backed up the Napolcom's relief order to question whether the whole exercise had been for show only; whether the government's moral crusade against *jueteng* and for good governance and command responsibility was really seri-

POLITICAL TIDBITS

Belinda Olivares-Cunanan



ous. Some critics went so far as to insinuate that Lina maneuvered the mass relief in order to preempt moves to include him in the Cabinet revamp, or that he was out to gain *pogi* points in his senatorial election bid in 2004.

At the dinner, Lina could barely touch his food as he grappled with so many issues relating to this relief. He stressed that if he's only out to gain *pogi* points, he wouldn't antagonize the governors and mayors, some of whom are reputed to be in cahoots with the *jueteng* lords. What he is doing, says Lina, is political suicide. He also stressed that contrary to allegations of the relieved generals that they were deprived of due process, the action against them was not "punishment" but a "normal management prerogative" for those wanting in the established yardsticks. He stressed that the Napolcom had bent over so many times to give the police commanders enough time to lick the problem. He cited the old PNP LOI 11/01 governing relief action against commanders was clearly reiterated in two command conferences in February and July 2001 as well as during the National Summit Against Illegal Gambling earlier this year, wherein *jueteng* was targeted among the five crimes for eradication with a new strike group, Task Force Jericho, set up against it. Lina explained that the Napolcom, in fact, made the PNP LOI parameter, i.e., two anti-*jueteng* strikes conducted in a commander's area of responsibility means he's out, more lenient by expanding the raids to three strikes before relief is effected.

I queried Lina on the complaint of the Metro Manila mayors that their hands are tied in the

anti-*jueteng* campaign because they have no control over their police under the current law. The mayors have, in fact, been asking Congress to return police control to them. Interestingly, one of the most vocal mayors is Manila's Lito Atienza, who's the uncle of Lina's wife, Lorrie. The DILG chief disputes the mayors' argument, stressing that the governors and mayors are deputies of the Napolcom, apart from being LGU executives; moreover, the mayors have operational control and supervision over the police, and RA 8551, which amended RA 1675, the PNP Law, in fact, puts the anti-gambling campaign squarely with the local executives.

As to the threat of police officers, beginning with some of those relieved, to resign from the service, Lina says he wishes it would not happen, but that it wouldn't daunt him, for there have been over 300 new senior superintendents who have just been promoted, who can take their place. "Maraming magagaling, given a chance," he said, adding that the police have never had it as good as under the Macapagal administration, for their pay is now at par with the teachers'. He noted that new Transportation Secretary Leandro Mendoza's salary now will be lower than when he was PNP chief.

Doubtless I articulated the thoughts of citizens when I queried Lina whether *jueteng* could be truly eradicated. There's so much cynicism about it. He replied that if the governor and the provincial commander agree to stamp it out, it can be done, citing how the late PC Col. Tirso Gador wiped it out in Cagayan. Right now, several provinces have successfully done it, namely, Nueva Vizcaya (where Archbishop Ramon Villena has been an inspiring figure in the anti-*jueteng* campaign), Quirino, Aurora and Occidental Mindoro; in fairness to Chavit Singson, says Lina, they have not monitored any activity in Ilocos Sur, but in Laguna, "it's back with a vengeance." Ultimately, the anti-*jueteng* drive's success would depend on the support President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo gives him, and right now, as she has indicated to the media, Lina has it. (To be continued)

Education for Maguindanaons

IN AN ENLARGED wood and thatch house by the water hyacinth-filled bank of the Nuling creek, an old man in his 80s with an unmistakable royal mien talks to a young lad in his 20s.

"Agir, I see a time when our long-held customs will be set aside in favor of strange ones. Nobility will be determined by affluence and slaves will become masters of their datus. This will come to pass when our people's children complete their studies in the schools established by the

Americans. Now, then, do you intend to send your own children to the schools?"

Thus, with earnestness, did Datu Hajji Iskandar Hijaban Mastura, Sultan of Maguindanao, express his concern to his eldest grandson Datu Baraguir Mamadra some eight decades ago.

The 1920s was a time for national soul-searching for Maguindanao. Already, some Maguindanao students were well on their way to finishing their studies. Datus and other notables from the mouth of the Pulangi (Rio Grande de Mindanao) to its source and various tributaries, were divided on whether to send their children to school or not. Sultan Mastura, however, seemed to hold an ambivalent view on the matter. Although he prophesied the adverse effects of American education on Muslim culture and Maguindanao customs and tradition, he also saw the evils of illiteracy.

"You may send your children to school, Agir. But I implore you, do not ever let them use my name for a surname, but you may let them use yours. I pray to God that he curse my descendants who will use my name as they go to the school of the unbaptized (non-Muslims)."

Sultan Mastura remained aloof from the Americans although he allowed the appointment of his eldest son, Datu Mamadra as the first municipal district president of Nuling (present-day Sultan Kudarat municipality) in 1913. It was obvious that there was no way to resist American hegemony, but an express submission of the

KRIS-CROSSING MINDANAO

Datu Amir Baraguir



Maguindanao sovereign to Uncle Sam's "Manifest Destiny" would be fatal to the future of his nation. So would be an explicit approval of the American campaign for compulsory education. Short of that, however, he also wanted a bright future for his descendants, knowing that lack of education will further marginalize and rob them of the opportunity to guide their people.

The grim implication of the dying Sultan's words was not lost on Datu Baraguir. Thus, while some of his children remained unschooled, some were sent to the local *madrasahs*, and some enrolled in the American schools.

Among the latter was Datu Sangacala who became mayor of Nuling/Sultan Kudarat municipality and governor of Maguindanao province; Datu Gutierrez who became a lawyer (and Sultan of Maguindanao upon retirement from the civil service); and Datu Kharis Baraguir who became vice governor of the same province.

What has education done or will it do to Maguindanaons? How can education make or unmake a nation?

Basically, any educational system falls under three categories: manipulative, alienative and consensual.

A colonial entity, a dominant nation within a state, or a governing party would usually impose their own values and symbols through their various agencies such as the bureaucracy, church, schools and media. In that case, the educational system tends to be manipulative. It is so designed as to make all sections of society—colonies, mi-

nority groups, the pbor—conform to its way of thinking and doing things. The colonial education imposed by the Americans and inherited by subsequent Philippine governments can be said to be more or less manipulative. Absolute success for its intent is, however, not guaranteed. Our history tells us that many of the Muslim rebels and secessionists were products of the said system.

The alienative educational system is often resorted to by groups experiencing, or threatened by, marginalization. It emphasizes the difference between these groups and the dominating entity. For example, various Muslim nations and ethnicities living through colonial domination by a stronger non-Muslim entity usually put up the *madaris* or *pondok* schools. Therein, they teach values and exhibit symbols that alienate them from the rich, powerful or dominating system without giving due regard to the opportunities for growth and development offered by the latter.

In modern times, there is a growing realization among the dominating and dominated groups that a consensus in developing or revising educational curricula, if not systems, becomes necessary to avoid the evils of total manipulation or total alienation.

In the Southern Philippines today, especially in "Muslim Mindanao," there are diverse initiatives by government agencies and NGOs to forge what appears as a consensual system of education for the Muslim Filipinos including the Maguindanaons. Whether these are borne out of a sincere desire to develop said groups economically, politically and—most importantly—culturally is another question. Maguindanaons can only hope that these can develop them on their own terms, eliminating the need to secede from the Republic that has nurtured them, albeit inadequately and unsatisfactorily for almost half a decade.

Comments to datuamir@columnist.com

Foreign policy must serve the global Filipino

COMMENTARY

Dean Jorge Bocobo

be indifferent to their urgent concerns over it, it is their right to champion that little corner of our multi-violated Constitution, which forbids the presence of foreign troops on Philippine soil. Everyone has their favorite that everyone else ignores.

But an ideological concern over foreign troops in the Philippines, must not in turn create a foreign policy that ignores the millions of Filipinos in foreign lands. Indeed, I submit that a locus of our foreign policy concerns, should be the Filipinos of our modern diaspora, for example, the Pinoys in America.

After all, it is we who are colonizing America now, not the other way around. If you don't believe me, take a stroll down a street in Daly City, California, near sunset when the fog rolls in, and the fog horns evoke some long forsaken, but never forgotten hometown or barangay, and tell me that that isn't the pungent aroma of *adobo*, cooked with USDA Grade AAA fresh pork and imported Ilocos garlic, wafting like a Manila Bay breeze from numberless Filipino homes. It is the same from sea to shining sea, Filipinos in their millions are an inextricable part of America, accounting for more than one in every hundred of the total quarter of a billion Americans, not counting the permanent tourists.

There are also a rapidly growing number of curiously hyphenated dual citizens, the Filipino-Americans, those born in the United States of at least one Filipino parent who are citizens of both nations, a unique status affirmed by the Philippine Supreme Court in the celebrated 1999 case of Edu Manzano, and concurred in by the US Immigration and Naturalization Service and US Department of Justice. This class of Filipinos is

rapidly growing in numbers, because the US Constitution grants citizenship to anyone born in US territory ("*jus soli*"), while the Philippine Constitution grants citizenship if you have a Filipino parent ("*jus sanguinis*"), and neither of the twin can they lose except by explicit choice.

All told, there may be up to eight million Filipinos in foreign lands, one in 10 Filipinos. Soon many of them will even have the vote, even if they are permanent residents of the United States or other countries. These global Filipinos are certainly the proper object of foreign policy.

In respect of the United States, like it or not, we are joined at the hip, heart and belly-button to the American nation, by virtue of the Filipinos there who are colonists in a land that has always welcomed immigrants, Filipino-Americans are an outstanding and brilliant addition of talent and industriousness, beauty and brains who have already vastly enriched the American enterprise.

They must be the object of foreign policy because they are also the hope of this country. It is the global Filipino, especially the Pinoys in America that have kept the country afloat all this time by repatriating billions of dollars of their hard-earned wages. I believe it is also they who can help to rescue the land they once left but must never forget.

Our foreign policy should focus on the global Filipino. Its task should be to turn what was once brain drain into brain gain. Foreign policy must harness what we have sent out into the world, those excellent Filipinos that ennoble it everywhere they go. They are the first to realize that the division of humanity into nations must be a temporary phase, something not truly essential to the nature that God and DNA put there, in the heart and mind of every human being. Or, would we rather tear ourselves to pieces in polemics over Biak-na-bato, Balangiga, Bataan and Basilan?

Comments to deanjbocobo@yahoo.com

Bias against male rape suspects

THE MERE mention of the word "rape" is apt to send shivers along the spine of women, regardless of age or civil status. It's a crime no woman in her right mind would want to go through, ever.

According to former jailbirds, prisoners have very low regard for rape suspects, especially if the victim is a daughter or close relative. The sex deviants are usually given a doze of their own medicine in a "reverse" manner.

Distaste for this crime is also shown by the way media handle rape stories. If the identity of the suspect is known to the victim or police investigator, expect his name to be included in the report.

But the victim's name is usually withheld in order to, as the reason goes, protect her dignity and reputation.

A reader, Vicente Dolante of Cavite City, is unhappy with what he considers "double standard" by the newspapers in the treatment of rape suspects. He strongly protests the INQUIRER's "practice of giving the name of the rape suspect if he is a male but you do not reveal the name of the victim."

"You claim that keeping the name of the victim confidential is necessary to protect her honor and dignity. You are concerned about the honor and dignity of the victims but what about the honor and dignity of the crime suspects? Are they not presumed innocent until proven guilty?"

"Because of the publicity, the suspects are already condemned as guilty and made the subject of ridicule by the readers and the people who know them. Even if they are later acquitted or the case is dismissed for lack of merit, the acquittal or dismissal is not given similar publicity as their arrest as suspects."

"This is most unfair. I strongly urge you to treat victims and suspects equally and not be biased against suspects."

Rulebook

Before discussing the reader's complaint, let's review the INQUIRER's rules on reporting of rape cases.

Its Manual of Editorial Policies states that, as a rule, the rape victim should not be identified in the news. The rationale behind this prohibition is that rape is perceived by many as a crime that often stigmatizes its victims so they become "double victims," so to speak, when their suffering is written about.

Aside from inviting the nosey attention of gossips, the publicity will only aggravate the emotional and physical trauma that the victim underwent in the hands of the sex maniac.

However, the identity of the rape victim may be disclosed under any of the following situations:

- The rapist killed the victim.
- A kidnapping or some other serious crime was also committed by the suspect(s).
- The victim, when of majority age, is willing to be identified.
- The report is extraordinarily newsworthy that the full story must be told, such as, the victim is a public figure or the attack took place in a public place.
- The complaint is not valid and the complainant is charged with filing false information.

The exceptions rest on the principle that the public's right to know the circumstances behind the heinous crime overrides whatever claims to privacy the victim or her family may have. Besides, giving the full story of the incident will be more effective in impressing on the readers the need to take the necessary precautions to avoid their being similarly victimized.

Suspect's identity

It is difficult to imagine news about the rape of a woman without mentioning the name of the rapist. It is doubtful if that story will stand the test of journalistic substance if the identities of its important personalities are omitted or their real names substituted with aliases.

That kind of news will probably run along these lines: A casual worker, whose identity cannot be disclosed, was arrested by the Quezon City police for allegedly raping 18-year-old Modesta Graciosa (not her real name) yesterday evening. The suspect refused to give any statement upon the advice of his lawyer. Graciosa said the suspect threatened to kill her if she resisted his sexual advances.

Something just doesn't seem right in that particular news format.

Indeed, a crime suspect is presumed innocent until proven guilty, but I think hiding his identity in news report is already going too far in protecting his rights as an accused.

While it is true that there are some scheming women in our midst, I think, by and large, no Filipino woman in her right mind would come out in public to say somebody raped her unless the assault really happened.

In this grotesquely conservative society of ours, such a claim of sexual violation would immediately invite gossip or behind-the-back whispers about the virtue of the victim or her motives in talking about her sad experience.

When the victim goes to the police to accuse somebody of raping her, and the police after initial investigation, decides to take action, there is reason to presume that the crime complained of may have really been committed by the person pointed to by the victim.

Since a heinous crime is being imputed on the suspect, the public has the right to know who did it and how it was done. The information will enable the readers to take preemptive measures to prevent a repeat of the incident on them, such as, avoiding the place where the rape happened or becoming wise to the modus operandi of the rapist.

Between the right of the suspect to protect his "good name" and the public's right to know the commission of a heinous crime within its midst, I think the latter is entitled to more importance. Sometimes, individual rights have to be sacrificed to serve the greater good.

Admittedly, the publication of the suspect's name puts him in a bad light before the public eye even before his guilt has been proven in court. In my opinion, that's a small price to pay in a political system that considers press freedom a critical element in its effective operation.

I have to concede though that rape suspects have reason to complain if they do not get the same amount of publicity when they are later acquitted or the rape charges against them are dismissed for lack of merit. In the absence of that "cleansing" news report, what remains in the public's mind is the story about his earlier well-publicized arrest.

This is one area in police reporting which the newspaper will have to look into and do something about it, to ensure balanced and fair treatment of the subject of its reports.

The readers' advocate may be reached at the following address: "The Readers' Advocate" c/o Philippine Daily Inquirer, Chino Roces Avenue corner Cyo and Mascarido Streets, Makati City. Or through fax nos. 897-4793 to 94, or reader-sadvocate@inquirer.com.ph.

Legacy for the Department of Foreign Affairs

AS Vice President Teofisto T. Guingona Jr. steps down as foreign secretary, his principles and integrity have all the more stood out and become appreciated. He will be missed in that post. We hope that the appreciation will be treated not as a *consuelo de bobo* but as a legacy for that post.

Much has been said about Guingona's nationalist principles and legacy, particularly in his reservations about the RP-US Balikatan joint military exercises. What has not been noted enough is his vigilance in safeguarding the peace process, particularly the peace negotiations with the major rebel groups.

In working out the Terms of Reference for the Balikatan 02-1 last February, he was able to get the United States to agree that the exercise shall not in any manner

contribute to any escalation of other conflicts in Mindanao, shall not adversely affect the progress of ongoing peace negotiations with the National Democratic Front and the Moro Islamic Liberation Front, and shall not put at risk the friendly relations between the Philippines and its neighbors as well as its friendly ties with other states. These parameters are reflected in the minutes of the relevant discussion between Guingona and the representative of US Secretary of State Colin Powell.

Guingona was not as lucky, though, when it came to the trilateral agreement on terrorism signed by the Philippines, Malaysia and Indonesia last May 7 in Putrajaya, Malaysia. He had strong reservations about one phrase in its definition of terrorism which would include "threat-

ening the stability, territorial integrity, political unity or sovereignty of independent States." He believed that this definition could be interpreted to cover the rebel groups with whom the Philippine government had ongoing peace talks. In his view, such a definition would be inconsistent with and undermine the peace talks. This is because of the generally accepted notion that one does not, as a rule, negotiate with terrorists.

According to Guingona, during a Senate committee hearing last May 20, he had earlier suggested to the foreign ministers of Malaysia and Indonesia the deletion of the said phrase from the definition of terrorism in the proposed trilateral agreement. The foreign minister of Malaysia had to consult about this. In the meantime,

the proposed agreement had been revised. Eventually, the document was submitted "as approved by the President" and retaining the said phrase. It was a fait accompli which Guingona could only abide by or acquiesce to. In the end, he did not join the foreign ministers of Malaysia and Indonesia in signing the trilateral agreement. Conspicuously unusual, it was the Interior Secretary Jose D. Lina Jr. who signed for the Philippines.

A third and final example, among others, of Guingona's support for the peace process was his position that the government should support the initiative of an international humanitarian organization, Geneva Call, to send a low-key mission to visit the MILF in some of its areas in Central Mindanao last April. This was in response to a letter from Defense

Secretary Angelo T. Reyes soliciting Guingona's position as to the foreign policy implications of the visit. The visit was for the purpose of seeking some accountability for the MILF's alleged violations of its commitment with Geneva Call for a total ban on anti-personnel land mines.

We hope that peace and humanitarian concerns like those of Guingona's will continue to inform whoever takes the helm of the Department of Foreign Affairs, including the President who is not only the "chief architect of foreign policy" but who also "shall exercise active and focused leadership that is essential for the effective pursuit of the comprehensive peace process" (per her own Executive Order No. 3). Her proven commitment at least to pursue the peace negotiations with the MILF



is to her credit. In this pursuit, there are or should be no policy differences with the Vice President.

As Guingona steps down as foreign secretary, we wish him God-speed in his continuing journey as a high public official, whose record now includes a premium given to the peace process. May his tribe increase and so too the peace constituency and other gatherings for peace. If we may adopt diplomatic practice, we would like to propose a toast to Tito. Cheers!

—SOLIMAN M. SANTOS JR., 18 Mariposa St., Cubao, Quezon City

Fabricated allegations of unexplained wealth

THIS refers to your editorial, titled "Many mansions," regarding my misfortune of being the "natural focus of the administration's attention" and being "caught once before fudging (the) truth" regarding my so-called dollar accounts abroad.

While I agree that my being with the opposition effectively spawned the erroneous and misleading reports over my supposed mansions, I blame no one among my colleagues for this adversity. However, allow me to set the record straight regarding my alleged dollar accounts in the United States.

First, I never denied that my wife, Alice, and I once opened accounts in the United States. In fact, I was the one who volunteered that information during the interpellation by my colleagues after I delivered my privilege speech in August last year. I have the Senate records, and not just the selective memory of faultfinders, to back me on that.

There is also no truth to reports that there were transactions running up to millions of dollars made through these accounts. I am certain my detractors were lying through their teeth when they said the latest transaction in one account was last December since these accounts were closed and are therefore no longer existing.

As much as I want to see an end to these fabricated allegations, I strongly believe that fair and responsible reporting will save the day for me.

—SEN. PANFILO M. LACSON

Illegal additional power charges in Olongapo

METRO Manilans are outraged over the high prices of basic commodities and the cursed purchased power adjustment (PPA). And I feel the same way.

But how would you feel if on top of the PPA you are levied other charges on your electric bill? In Olongapo, the Public Utilities Department (PUD) collects from us not only the PPA but also a 10-percent currency adjustment. Simple arithmetic shows that our electric bill consists of three parts, the basic charge plus the PPA and the currency adjustment. Scandalous, right?

Wrong! It is criminal. The local government, through the PUD, collects the currency adjustment without prior approval from the Energy Regulatory Commission (ERC). Julie Reyes, PUD manager, has seen to the implementation of the collection for over a year now and only recently did the people of Olongapo find out that it was not authorized by the ERC.

How much has been collected from the people of Olongapo? Now that the cat is out of the bag, will Mayor Katherine Gordon refund the amount to her constituents?

The ERC should not let this pass, but just slapping the hands that divested people of precious pesos they needed is unacceptable.

I am appalled that no less than the city government has allowed this illegal act to oppress so many.

—ERNESTO MONTERO, 27 National Highway, Barangay Baretto, Olongapo City

How many cities and towns do we have?

DURING the last few years, Congress has created new provinces, converted many first-class municipalities into cities and transformed big barangays into municipalities so that our people, especially the teachers and students, are at a loss as to the exact number of provinces, cities, municipalities and barangays in our country.

Will Interior Secretary Jose Lina be kind enough to inform our people about this?

—PAUL R. MORTEL, MBLA Court, Malanday, Marikina City

IF you have any complaints, grievances or suggestions about the treatment of news and photos by the Inquirer, you may write to the Readers' Advocate, Philippine Daily Inquirer, Chino Roces Avenue, corner Yague and Mascardo Streets, City of Makati or send a fax to Nos. 897-4793, 897-4794, or e-mail readersadvocate@inquirer.com.ph

Writers of letters to the editor are requested to include their complete address and telephone or pager number or e-mail address for verification purposes. The Inquirer will not publish any letter unless such information is supplied.

PRESIDENT GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO'S 10-POINT PLAN TO REDUCE ELECTRICITY RATES

President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo recently announced her 10-point plan to reduce electricity rates and give immediate relief to consumers starting this month.

The Plan aims to:

1. Reflect the true cost of service in the rates.
2. Introduce price incentives to stimulate and increase demand.
3. Optimize utilization of generation capacity to minimize cost.
4. Accelerate the operation of a competitive Wholesale Electricity Spot Market (WESM).
5. Accelerate the implementation of the open access to give end-users the power of choice.
6. Promote efficient performance of Distribution Utilities.
7. Strengthen and consolidate Electric Cooperatives.
8. Review IPP contracts to reduce contract costs.
9. Explore and use financial engineering to reduce stranded costs by spreading payments over longer periods of time.
10. Enhance the capability of the Energy Regulatory Commission (ERC) to ensure consumer protection and welfare.

The entire Energy family strongly supports President Arroyo's 10-Point Plan.

We are committed to its success.

We believe that this is the solution.

Let us work together to make this happen.



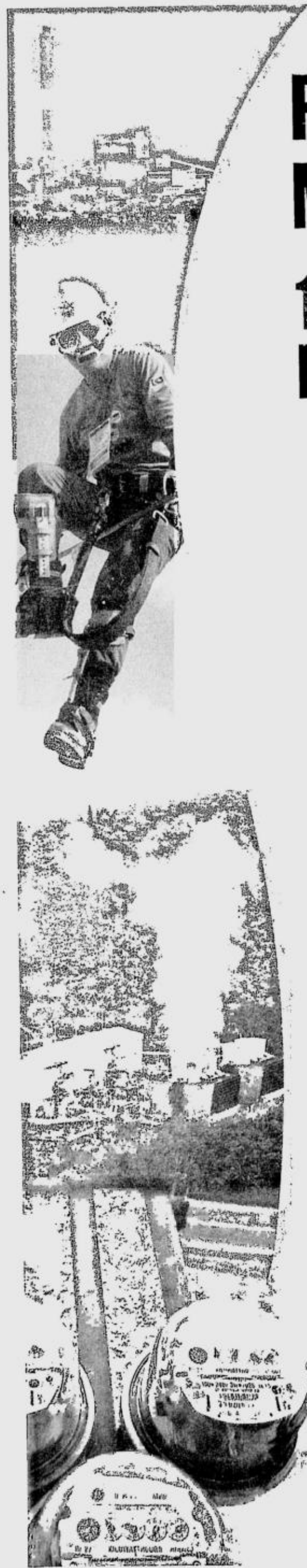
Department of Energy



National Power Corporation



National Electrification Administration



The WORLD

Editor Luverne B. Gueco

Afghans mourn slain vice president

KABUL—Hundreds of international and Afghan peacekeepers cordoned off the grand Eid Gah mosque in the heart of Kabul on Sunday as funeral prayers were said for slain Afghan Vice President Abdul Qadir.

"This is a tragedy for my family," said Din Mohammed, an elder brother. "I don't know whom to blame."

Qadir was gunned down Saturday outside his government office in a daring daylight attack by two men with Kalashnikov rifles. His son-in-law, who was driving the vehicle, was also killed. The gunmen escaped.

Thousands of men streamed into the grand Eid Gah mosque that stretches the length of a city block in the heart of Kabul's old city.

Three helicopters kicked up clouds of dust as it landed in a nearby sports stadium bringing mourners from Qadir's eastern Nangarhar province to Kabul to offer prayers. Qadir was governor of Nangarhar province as well as public works minister and vice president.

Some of the mourners had driven five hours on a rock-strewn road from the Nangarhar provincial capital of Jalalabad to Kabul to attend the funeral prayers.

"We are so sad. This is a big loss and it is a big loss for all of Afghanistan. Whoever did this must pay," said Haji Saki, a former guerrilla fighter with Qadir who had driven the 125 km (75 miles) from Jalalabad to Kabul earlier Sunday.

One hundred international peacekeepers joined hundreds of Afghan soldiers and policemen to provide a security cordon around the sprawling mosque. The international peacekeepers' quick reaction force was on standby in case of trouble, and peacekeeper helicopters hovered over the mosque.

Helmeted interior ministry police with machine guns lined roads leading from the mosque to the airport where the body will be taken after the prayer. Rocket ruttled roads leading to the mosque were closed to routine traffic. Cars on other main roads were searched by policemen with rocket launchers and Kalashnikov rifles slung over their shoulders.

"We believe it was an individual attack, designed to destabilize the transitional government," said Turkish Army Col. Samet Oz, spokesperson for the peacekeepers, or the International Security Assistance Force. Turkey

took over command of the estimated 5,000 soldiers last month.

Qadir's body will be taken by helicopter to Jalalabad later Sunday for burial. Several Cabinet ministers are to attend, but the government has refused to identify them citing security concerns.

It isn't known whether Afghan President Hamid Karzai will be among the mourners in Jalalabad. Tuesday has been declared a day of mourning.

A government statement blamed the assassination on "terrorists" and said a special commission had been formed track down the killers.

The attack took place about 12:40 p.m. as Qadir was leaving by car from the heavily guarded Ministry of Public Works, which he also headed. Qadir's driver, who was also his son-in-law, also died.

All 10 uniformed security guards who were on duty at the ministry were arrested because they failed to react properly, according to Kabul police chief Din Mohammed Jurat.

No group claimed responsibility. Foreign ministry spokesperson Omar Samad called the killing a "terrorist action" carried out by "enemies of the state who are against peace in the country."



AFGHAN Vice President Haji Abdul Qadir (left photo) was assassinated by unidentified gunmen in broad daylight on Saturday. A policeman (right photo) points to one of the bullet holes on the window of Qadir's car.

REUTERS

WORLD BRIEFS

'Cruel' Americans

DEHRAWAD, Afghanistan—US soldiers stormed the homes of Afghan villagers after they were bombed in a US air-raid last weekend and barred people from treating their wounded relatives, outraged Afghans said here over the weekend. "First they bombed the women folk, killing them like animals. Then they stormed into the houses and tied the hands of men and women," Mohammad Anwar told AFP at Kakrakai village in central Uruzgan province's Dehrawad district. "It was cruelty. After bombing the area, the US forces rushed to that house, cordoned it off and refused to let the people help the victims or take them away for treatment," he said. Anwar was pointing to the home of his brother Sharif, who was hosting a huge pre-wedding party for his son on the night of June 30 when US airships strafed Kakrakai and surrounding villages. Sharif, who risked the wrath of the Taliban to keep Afghan President Hamid Karzai alive during his daring mission into then-Taliban-ruled central Afghanistan last October, was killed. So were Anwar's wife, Sharif's wife and four children. The groom-to-be son survived because he was confined to a separate house as local wedding tradition decrees.

AFP

Racist conspiracy

NEW YORK—Multiplatinum singer Michael Jackson, already feuding with his record company, said the recording industry was a racist conspiracy that turns profits at the expense of performers—particularly minority artists. "The recording companies really, really do conspire against the artists—they steal, they cheat, they do everything they can," Jackson said Saturday in a rare public appearance. "(Especially) against the black artists." Jackson, 43, who began his recording career as a child, spoke at civil rights leader the Rev. Al Sharpton's National Action Network in Harlem. Sharpton and attorney Johnnie Cochran Jr. recently formed a coalition to investigate whether artists are being financially exploited by record labels.

AP

Misjudgment

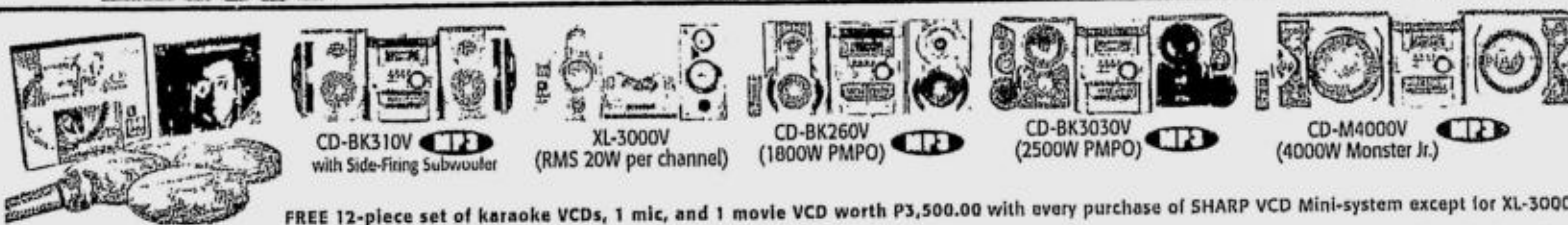
SEOUL—An initial misjudgment of casualties restrained the South Korean navy from using further force in a recent skirmish with North Korea that killed at least four Southern sailors and left another missing, officials said Sunday. Concluding a weeklong investigation, the defense ministry said that its naval command misunderstood an initial damage report and believed there were only five sailors dead or wounded when in fact there were five sailors believed dead and 19 wounded. "We initially thought our damages were slight. Thus, we send out orders to cease fire and retreat to avoid further damages to our ships," the ministry said in a report. The command also detected ship-to-ship missiles being aimed at its ships during the 21-minute gunfight in the western sea on June 29, the report said.

AP

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NEIGHBORS' TESTIMONY

LA gunman reportedly hated Americans, Israelis

LOS ANGELES—Neighbors said Hershah Mohamed Hadayet, the Egyptian accused of killing two people at an El Al ticket counter here on July 4, was an angry man and his anger was aimed at Americans and Israelis.

"He had a lot of anger at Americans. He said there were a lot of crazy people in America. He had a lot of anger," neighbor Emma La Mer told journalists.

"He kept all of his anger inside him. So he can't hold it anymore. He can't hold it any more," said Abdul Zahev, who worked two weeks for Hadayet as a limousine driver.

Armed with a .45 cal pistol, a 9 mm pistol and a hunting knife, Hadayet killed two people and

wounded four other before being shot himself by a security guard working for El Al, known as the airline with some of the tightest security in the world.

Zahev said the Egyptian frequently expressed his ire against Israel and the United States, which he felt ganged up on Arabs and Palestinians.

Deportation

Hadayet, who arrived in the United States in 1992, was close to being deported after US authorities rejected his residency petition in 1996, according to the Los Angeles press.

The US Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) said Hadayet entered the United States legally in July 1992 and asked for

resident status, which was rejected in 1996, INS spokesperson Ron Rogers told the Orange County Register.

Rogers could not say why residency was denied, but INS began deportation proceedings.

However, in August 1997, Hadayet obtained residence through his wife, Hala, who won a visa through a lottery the US occasionally grants to citizens of certain countries, the Los Angeles Times reported.

Hadayet had no police record, said FBI special agent Richard Garcia.

However, police in Irvine, California, where he had lived for six years, had received calls about domestic disturbances.

"We received information from (the) police department that they have had calls in at that area for domestic disturbances, whether or not family issue or just neighborly issues . . . It could be basically loud stereo, too," Garcia said.

Motive

US authorities continued to look into the motive for Hadayet's rampage, in which he fired on a crowd waiting to board an El Al flight during July 4, US Independence Day.

"We are going on hate crimes but not over-ruling terrorism completely and not ruling out other types of issue like that's maybe a random act of violence," Garcia said.

The FBI searched Hadayet's

apartment Friday, and confiscated a computer, books and documents, without revealing what they might have found to explain the source of Hadayet's hatred.

The agency said the limousine service owner intended to murder people when he turned up at Los Angeles International Airport.

According to Garcia, Hadayet's motives remained murky, despite the insistence of Israeli officials and US Jewish groups that the shooting was an anti-Israeli terror attack.

"It appears that he went there with the intention of killing people," Garcia told reporters. "Why he did that is still undetermined. That's what we are trying to find out."

The agent declined to classify as a terrorist attack the incident that occurred as passengers queued for a Tel Aviv-bound flight on El Al, considered the world's most secure airline, saying it was too early to draw conclusions.

No doubt

But in Jerusalem, a senior official close to Prime Minister Ariel Sharon said there was "no doubt" the shooting was a "terrorist" act targeting El Al, which has been a terrorist magnet for the past 34 years.

The official added there was probably no link to the Palestinian conflict but noted the incident bore the hallmarks of an action by al-Qaida, blamed for last year's terror attacks on the United States.

AFP

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changes d way Filipinos komunik8

1999

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Mahathir says defense chief best choice for No. 2 job

KUALA LUMPUR—In an apparent bid to prevent infighting, Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad endorsed his defense minister Sunday to become Malaysia's No. 2 leader after Mahathir hands over power.

Najib Razak is considered a front-runner to succeed Abdullah Ahmad Badawi, currently the country's deputy prime minister.

Abdullah is slated to take over as the head of the government and the ruling party after Mahathir resigns in October 2003.

Mahathir, speaking to Malaysian journalists during a visit to Thailand, said Najib was well qualified, but stressed that his comments were "not binding," and Abdullah had the right to choose his own deputy.

"I see in this case, the best candidate in terms of seniority and experience in the government is Najib," Mahathir was quoted as saying by Malaysia's national news agency, Bernama.

Najib, 49, the son of a former prime minister, has been seen as a potential rival to Abdullah. But he has pledged to be loyal to him and prevent infighting in the ruling United Malays National Organization.

Two other potential candidates for the deputy's post are Muhyiddin Yassin, the consumer affairs minister, and Muhammad Taib, a former state chief minister. All three are ruling party vice presidents.

Mahathir, 76, stunned the country he has led for 21 years by tearfully announcing two weeks ago that he wanted to resign. He was persuaded to stay on, and a 16-month transition has been announced to ensure stability.

On Sunday, Mahathir also said the ruling party's policy-making body had decided to postpone its internal elections scheduled for mid-2003 until after Malaysia's general elections were held.

The decision indicated that general elections, which are not due until 2004, would not be held within the next 12 months. Opposition leaders have speculated that Mahathir would call early elections to capitalize on a perceived increase in the government's popularity.

AP

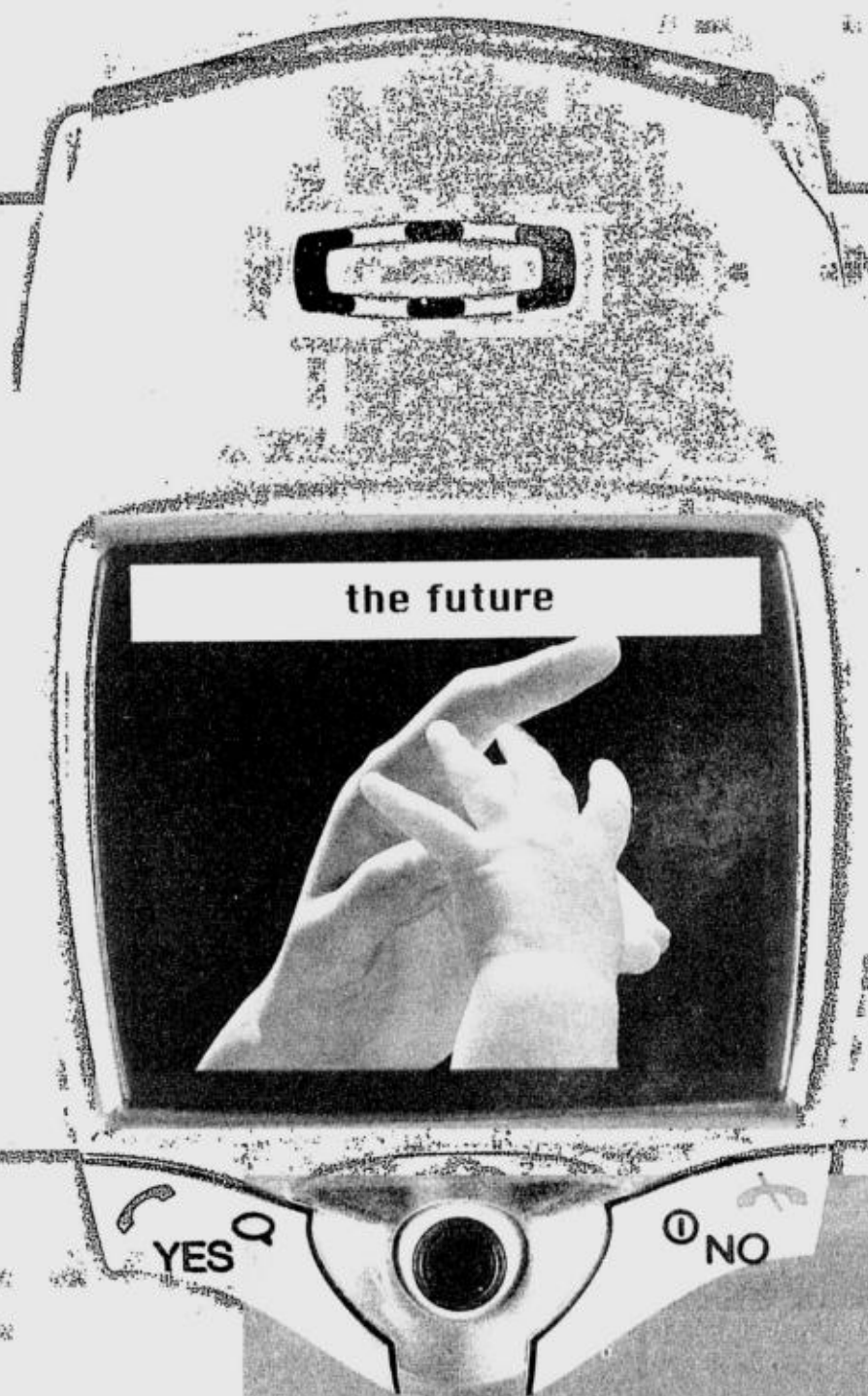


LUCKY GUEST

Tetsuya Goto (left), his wife Kanae and 3-year-old boy Takumi are regaled by Disney characters upon his confirmation as the 10 millionth guest to Disney Sea at the entrance of the amusement park near Tokyo on July 7. Disney Sea, which opened in September 2001, welcomed its 10 millionth guest on its 307th business day.

AFP

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Group to wage war on child labor

Over 200,000 kids in Western Visayas work in hazardous, exploitative settings

By Ma. Diosa Labiste
PDI Visayas Bureau

ILOILO CITY—A multisectoral group has formed a task force to fight child labor in Western Visayas, which has drawn more than 200,000 children to work under mostly hazardous conditions.

The task force was organized during a consultation workshop on July 3, which was participated in by more than 50 representatives from the government, non-government organizations, religious organizations and the academe.

The participants all pledged to help remove children in the local pyrotechnic industry, in prostitution, commercial fishing, domestic work, in the farms and sugarcane plantation.

The consultation was organized by the private group Kahublagan sang Panimalay Foundation and the International Labor Organization (ILO), which has a program on the eradication of child labor.

Concepcion Sardana of the ILO said the task force would plan ways to immediately eliminate the worst form of child labor in the region.

The ILO pledged to provide funds to help the task force, which would conduct an information drive, provide halfway homes and rehabilitation centers for rescued children, and offer basic and vocational education to those who wanted to go back to school.

Sardana said that while Western Visayas was not among the regions in the country that had the highest share of working children, the region had a number of industries employing children under exploitative and hazardous

conditions.

The ILO data showed that Southern Tagalog, the Bicol Region, Central Visayas, Eastern Visayas and Southeastern Mindanao have the highest share of the 3.7 million working children (ages 5 to 17) all over the country.

Cases shared by resource persons showed the extent of child labor in the provinces of Iloilo, Aklan, Antique, Capiz, Guimaras and Negros Occidental.

Sugar cane plantations in Negros Occidental and Iloilo hire children as housemaids. Fireworks manufacturers in Hinigaran town, Negros Occidental and Villa Arevalo in Iloilo City pay children to wrap wicks and scoop gunpowder into tiny triangle pouches.

Children also earn by scooping and spading gravel and sand into waiting trucks of quarry firms.

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4 more children die of measles

GENERAL SANTOS CITY—Measles claimed the lives of four more children in Barangay San Jose here, bringing the death toll from the disease to 11.

However, Tula Sulanting, chair of Barangay San Jose, said all the victims were residents of Purok Bagong Silang.

The epidemic was first monitored on Monday last week after a team from the City Integrated Health Services visited Purok Datal Salvan and Bagong Silang, which are populated by T'boli natives.

The health personnel initially recorded seven deaths while 14 others were found to have been afflicted with the disease.

Dr. Fidel Penamante, department head of the City Integrated Health Services, said there was no measles outbreak in the city. Aquiles Z. Zonio, PDI Mindanao Bureau

5 fishermen survive 26-hour ordeal at sea

ILOILO CITY—A passenger ship on Friday rescued five fishermen from Antique after their motorboat ran aground in waters off the island town of Cagayancillo, Palawan.

PO2 Edwin Bienes of the Philippine Coast Guard station in Iloilo City identified the rescued fishermen as Rolando Ilustorio, 25; Graciano Bruno, 22; Jose Coquina, 20; Mansueto Hamili, 43; and his son, Manuel Hamili, 17, all residents of Barangay Salvacion, Anini-y town, Antique.

The five left Anini-y on July 3 aboard motor banca Rock-

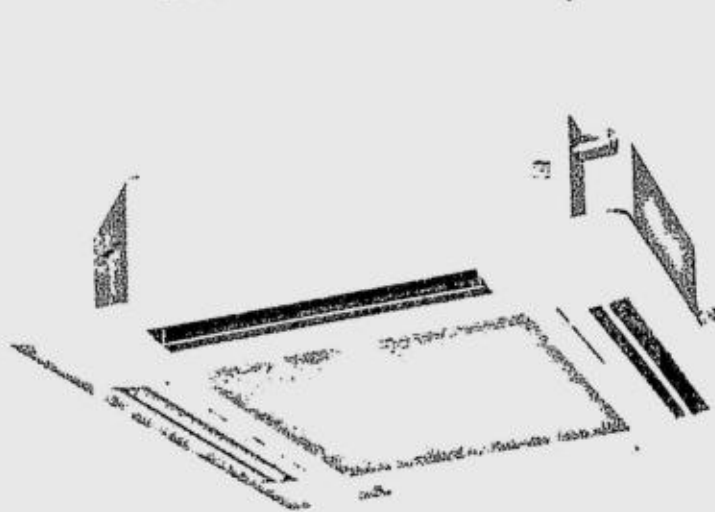
mont to fish in Cagayancillo. But their fishing boat ran aground after it was filled with water. Strong waves bore a hole in the boat.

The fishermen were rescued at 11:18 a.m. on Friday, after floating in the water for 26 hours, by the crew of the passenger ship Super Ferry 8 of shipping firm WG&A. The passenger ship was on its way to Manila from Zamboanga City.

Bienes said the fishermen were given dry clothes and food aboard Super Ferry 8. Nestor P. Burgos Jr., PDI Visayas Bureau

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Drug evidence vs Ecleo strong, says police officer

By Jolene R. Bulanbot
PDI Visayas Bureau

CEBU CITY—A police investigator here testified that the affidavit of the jail guard and the positive laboratory results on the illegal drug seized from the luggage of detained cult leader Ruben Ecleo Jr. were sufficient to pin him down.

SPO4 Cesar Cañete of the Mabol Police Station made the statement during the continuation on Thursday of the preliminary investigation of the case of illegal possession of drugs filed against Ecleo.

The clarificatory hearing was conducted at the office of the jail warden of the Bagong Buhay Rehabilitation Center, where Ecleo is now detained, for security reasons.

Lawyer Orlando Salatandre, Ecleo's legal counsel, has insisted that his client could not be charged with possession of shabu (methamphetamine hydrochloride) since the bag from where it was found was not in Ecleo's actual custody when he was brought to Cebu City from the Criminal Investigation and Detection Group (CIDG) detention cell in Camp Crame.

But Cañete said that even if Ecleo was not in physical possession of the substance, he still owns the traveling bag where the three packets were found during the mandatory inspection at the BBRC.

"Ownership of the bag is related to constructive possession," Cañete said.

Jail Officer Aleth Romanillos stated in her affidavit that the three packets of shabu, weighing a gram each, were discovered from the used bar of soap that was one of the items inside the suitcase.

Salatandre, however, found two inconsistencies in Romanillos's affidavit. First was when she described the suitcase as color blue when it was actually green.

She also said the CIDG personnel who handed the bag to her for inspection wore a sweatshirt but the police officer was actually wearing a CIDG-marked polo shirt.

PO2 Pablo Gentallian admitted he was instructed by Chief Insp. Richie Posadas, CIDG-Central Visayas deputy director, to claim the bag at the arrival area of the Mactan Cebu International Airport on June 21.

He said he was given a claim stub and P100 for the taxi fare. He also said the bag was closed but it was not locked.

Gentallian was one of the CIDG personnel here tasked to escort Ecleo from his arrival at the airport up to his commitment at the BBRC. He said while waiting at the ramp,

Posadas instructed him to take charge of the suspect's personal belongings and to take a cab from the airport to the CIDG office located at the Cebu City Police Office, Camp Sotero Cabahug, Gorordo Avenue.

The police officer said that when he arrived at the CIDG office, he immediately placed the bag at the office of Supt. Edwin Diocos, the CIDG regional chief. He said he was also the one who carried the bag when Ecleo was brought to the Palace of Justice, where Ecleo was issued a commitment order by the Regional Trial Court judge who signed the warrant for his arrest.

Ecleo, "supreme master" of the Philippine Benevolent Missionaries Association (PBMA), was charged with parricide in April for the slaying of his wife Alona Bacolod-Ecleo, whose body was found inside a garbage bag in January. He had eluded arrest until June 19, when he was forced to give himself up after an all-night gunfight on Dinagat Island, Surigao del Norte, the headquarters of the PBMA. The clash left 16 PBMA members and a policeman dead.

Ecleo was immediately transported to Camp Crame after his arrest. He was brought to Cebu two days later.

Gentallian admitted he never thought of asking any representative from the Ecleo family to supervise the bag. He said he left the bag in the security van provided by their office when he escorted the cult leader to the court. However, he failed to board the same van when they left the Palace of Justice on their way to BBRC.

When they reached the city jail, he said he forgot to bring the bag with him since he was part of the security cordon provided to the cult leader.

He said he only got the bag back when another CIDG personnel relayed to him the instruction of CIDG Chief Nestorio Gualberto to subject Ecleo's possessions to inspection.

Salatandre lamented that no one from the CIDG informed him that his client had a suitcase. Had he been informed, he said he would have requested a member or a representative of the Ecleo family to supervise the luggage handling.

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New anti-crime czar orders raps filed vs boy's abductors

DAVAO CITY—Mayor Rodrigo Duterte, the newly appointed chair of the Special Task Force against Illegal Drugs and Kidnapping, Saturday ordered the police to file charges against the suspects in the abduction of the 2-year-old son of a Filipino-Chinese businessman here.

But Duterte said he initially wanted to exclude the boy's 15-year-old nanny from the charges because it appears that she was not aware of the kidnapping.

Duterte said he talked with the nanny on Friday morning.

"I can see from her face that she was not aware (that) the mastermind was using her," the mayor, who projects an image of toughness against crime, said.

But Duterte said he would not interfere should the police finally decide to include the teenager in the charge sheet.

The police identified the mastermind as Ricky Anacion, a resident of Washington Street here, who is now the subject of a massive police manhunt.

The nanny was arrested, along with three other people including Anacion's wife during a police operation.

Duterte said the kidnapping of Jeremy Ching was well planned indicating that the abductors were not really amateurs.

Duterte said the nanny told her that Anacion, the husband of her aunt, called her up on Wednesday and asked her to bring the boy near SM City along Tulip Drive in Juna Subdivision, Matina District.

The boy lives at the subdivision.

Anacion, the Chings' family cook, allegedly claimed that he was asked by Mrs. Ching to relay the instruction. **Anthony S. Allada and Ayan C. Mellejor, PDI Mindanao Bureau**

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Western and Central Luzon and Western Visayas will experience monsoon rains. The rest of the country will be cloudy with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms.

SOURCE: PAGASA

Metro Manila	Monsoon Rains	HI 27°	Lo 23°
Baguio	Monsoon Rains	HI 20°	Lo 15°
Tuguegarao	Cloudy with Rainshowers	HI 32°	Lo 22°
Laosy	Monsoon Rains	HI 31°	Lo 24°
Clark Zone	Monsoon Rains	HI 26°	Lo 23°
Tagaytay	Monsoon Rains	HI 28°	Lo 21°
Lagaypi	Cloudy with Rainshowers	HI 33°	Lo 20°
Catapan	Monsoon Rains	HI 30°	Lo 22°
Itlo/Bacolod	Monsoon Rains	HI 28°	Lo 24°
Roxas	Monsoon Rains	HI 30°	Lo 24°
Cebu	Cloudy with Rainshowers	HI 31°	Lo 26°
Tacloban	Cloudy with Rainshowers	HI 34°	Lo 26°
Gen. Santos	Cloudy with Rainshowers	HI 32°	Lo 24°
Zamboanga	Cloudy with Rainshowers	HI 32°	Lo 24°
Corbayan de Oro	Cloudy with Rainshowers	HI 32°	Lo 23°
Davao	Cloudy with Rainshowers	HI 32°	Lo 24°

Compiled by: Chona Galang, PDI Research/07/08/02

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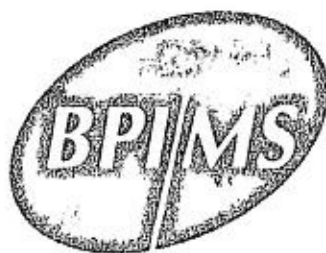
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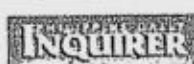
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IN COOPERATION WITH**Non-teachers tapped
for election duties**

By Alex Pal

PDI Visayas Bureau

DUMAGUETE CITY—The Commission on Elections yesterday defended its plan to appoint employees of the Dumaguete City government to the Boards of Election Inspectors (BEI) to meet the shortfall of personnel during the July 15 barangay and SK elections.

"That's the law," City Comelec Registrar Manuel Advincula told the INQUIRER.

Advincula made the clarification amid suspicions from political quarters here that this may be a scheme hatched by the city administration to ensure victory for its favored candidates.

Advincula said appointing city employees to the BEI is not new, as it has been practiced in previous elections.

"The rule states that priority is given to public school teachers. If the teachers are not enough, next in line are private employees, then government employees. If those people are not available, then the Comelec will field any qualified voter who has no record of political biases," he said.

Dumaguete has 333 precincts that would need a total of 999 persons to constitute the BEIs.

Advincula said he doubts if the city has enough teachers to be assigned to all the BEIs. Another factor contributing to the shortage of teachers is the law that says that a teacher, who is a member of the BEI, should not be related to any of the candidates within the fourth civil degree. There is also a prohibition for any two members of the BEI to be related within the fourth civil degree.

Advincula, however, said that, unlike the public school teachers whose assignment to the BEI is mandatory, the other government employees who will be drafted for the July 15 elections would be volunteers.

Advincula said he would meet with heads of offices to determine who among their subordinates are interested.

"This has been done even during the 1980s. We will not choose (volunteers) on the basis of political leanings. For as long as they are government employees and civil service eligible, that is enough," Advincula said.

A City Hall employee, who asked not to be identified, had earlier voiced apprehension that the plan may have been hatched by the city administration.

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Bong Pineda 'shaken' by Ombudsman's investigation order

By Tomette Orejas
PDI Central Luzon Desk

LUBAO, Pampanga—Suspected jueteng lords Rodolfo "Bong" Pineda and his brother Romy were said to have been "shaken" by Ombudsman Aniano Desierto's order of preliminary investigation of their roles in the alleged commission of plunder by deposed President Joseph Estrada.

According to a source close to the Pinedas, the brothers have "mobilized a battery of good lawyers" to defend them in court.

According to the source, the Pinedas have yet to receive the notice for preliminary investigation from the Office of the Ombudsman.

The source declined to say if the Pinedas, especially Bong, had anticipated their being dragged into the plunder case filed against Estrada.

In 1995, Bong had been cleared of charges of corrupting public officials.

Police sources said he had stopped jueteng operations in key areas of Central and Northern Luzon immediately after he left for Los Angeles on Oct. 4, 2000.

Bong left the country before former Ilocos Sur Gov. Luis "Chavit" Singson testified that Estrada had received more than P400 million in jueteng protection money and tobacco excise taxes.

He reportedly left to get a hair transplant and treatment for a heart problem.

Although called to testify in the Senate's impeachment trial, Bong did not appear. His wife, former Lubao Mayor Lilia Pineda, was summoned in his stead.

The prosecuting panel then did not announce if Bong would stand as a witness in that trial. No extradition orders were issued to get him back to the country.

But INQUIRER sources in the police said Bong ceased operations so as not to embarrass President Macapagal-Arroyo, who is also from Lubao, or not to be implicated in the plunder charge.

Bong's younger brother Romy Pineda—whom some referred to here as also Ruben—reportedly took over the illegal numbers game, according to police sources.

But the sources noted that Bong and Romy had been getting "royalty" fees from small jueteng financiers operating in what used to be the turf of Pineda.

Latest reports reaching Camp Olivas, the regional police headquarters in Central Luzon, said Bong had shifted his operations in Southern Tagalog, specifically Laguna.

Bong's two close relatives, who asked not to be named, dispelled these reports. "Nanahimik na siya (He's now living a peaceful life)," one told the INQUIRER in a telephone interview on Tuesday.

The source said that while Bong's health has improved, Desierto's order for an investigation of his liabilities has worried him since Monday night.

The culpability of the Pinedas—including those of former Presidential Assistant for Bicol Affairs Anton Prieto, self-confessed Estrada's errand girl Baby Ortaliza, Jose Victor Uy and Singson—were pointed out by witnesses Carmencita Itchon and Emma Lim when they testified in the ongoing trial of Estrada.

7 Leyte town execs, ex-dad post bail to avoid detention

By Vicente S. Labro
PDI Visayas Bureau

TACLOBAN CITY—Seven incumbent municipal officials and a former councilor of Hilongos, Leyte who are facing charges at the Sandiganbayan have posted bail bonds totaling P240,000 to avoid being jailed.

The Sandiganbayan has recently issued a warrant of arrest for the eight individuals who are facing raps before the anti-graft court for their refusal in 1999 to recognize an appointed councilor.

Hilongos Mayor Panfilo Go said Saturday that he posted a P30,000

Trinidad Cabardo, accused them of abuse of authority, among others.

The case stemmed from the refusal of the accused to recognize Cabardo as councilor in Hilongos despite her appointment by Gov. Remedios Petilla in June 1999. Cabardo was to replace the town's third councilor, Teogenes Caing, who resigned to take the post of municipal health officer.

But Villaflor, who was then the mayor, and Go, then the vice mayor, and six of the councilors opposed Cabardo's appointment, citing the law of succession in the filling up of vacant positions in the municipal council as their basis.

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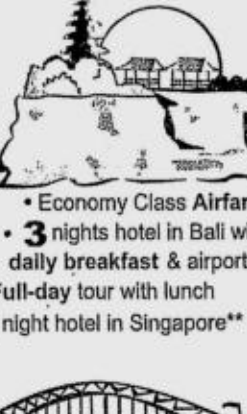
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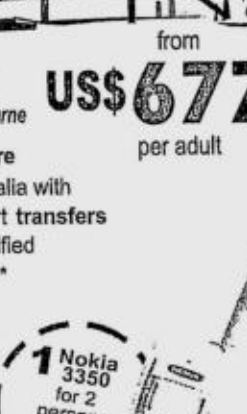


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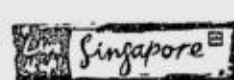


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11 dead in typhoon

From page A1

The low-pressure area was caused by Typhoon "Ramasun," which spared the Philippines. It swept across the Korean peninsula on Saturday, causing two deaths, after earlier striking China.

Gloria is the seventh typhoon to enter the Philippine area of responsibility this year. It packed maximum winds of 160 km per hour, with gustiness of up to 195 km per hour.

Moving west-northwest at 24 km per hour, it is forecast to be at 930 km east northeast of Basco at 4 p.m. today.

Gloria lashed Guam in the western Pacific after unleashing floods and landslides in Micronesia's Chuuk coral lagoon that killed 39 people and injured 100.

Fabregas was quick to explain that the name of the new typhoon—which happened to be the first name of President Macapagal-Arroyo—was based on a pre-programmed list drawn up by the weather bureau as early as 2001.

The list contained the "winning entries" to the weather bureau's name-the-typhoon contest launched in March 1999.

"It just so happened that Gloria is up next on our lineup. It doesn't mean anything else," he said.

El Niño

Fabregas said the past few days of heavy rains indicated that the country was not yet experiencing El Niño, which is expected to begin in the last quarter of the year.

The three Koreans, including a 4-year-old girl, died when their banca sank off Kamao Point near Tingloy Island in Batangas at about 6 p.m., according to the Coast Guard.

The Coast Guard said the boat, with three crewmembers, was bound for Batangas City.

Franquillino Paiton, Coast Guard chief in Batangas City, identified the fatalities as Sang Wang-jeon, 34; Min Sun-yun, 22; and Eom Sao-oh, 4. Their bodies are now in the Bejasa Hospital in Bauan, Batangas.

Two of their companions, 21-year-old Seong Ok-lee and an unidentified one, were reported missing.

Six Koreans, including a 5-year-old boy, are confined at the St. Patrick Hospital in Batangas City. The rest were declared unharmed.

Boat owner

The Coast Guard said charges would be filed against the owner of the boat as it left port without clearance. "April Boy" was owned by a Ricarte Garcia of Sabang, Puerto Galera, according to Lt. Armand Balillo, Coast Guard spokesperson.

Joseph Kim, a friend of the South Koreans' who was not on the boat, told the Associated Press that the crewmen ventured

out into the sea 1 to 2 kilometers from the coast before deciding to embark on the trip.

"They told our members it's OK. They can handle the situation," Kim said. "But almost 10 minutes (before reaching) ... Batangas, the big waves just overthrew them. They did not ask our members to take life vests."

Landslide

A Department of Social Welfare and Development report identified the scavenger as Lorenzo Cortez of Purok 4 in Barangay New Cabalan in Olongapo City.

Cortez, 31, was sorting trash when a hill of garbage caved in and buried him. The DSWD said he died while being taken to the James Gordon Memorial Hospital.

Three still unidentified persons sustained minor bruises from a landslide in Barangay Sta. Rita, also in Olongapo.

Reports gathered by the INQUIRER showed that at least six villages in three Zambales towns were affected by 2 to 3 feet of floodwaters on Saturday and Sunday.

These were the coastal villages of Lipay-Dingin, Zone 1, Zone 3 and San Agustin in Iba town; San Juan in Botolan town; and Amagna in San Felipe town.

At least 100 families were evacuated in Lipay-Dingin, reports said.

Another landslide was reported in Barangay Calapandayan in Subic town. Only one lane of the national road in that village was passable.

Zambales Vice Gov. Ramon Lacbain III said electricity was cut off in Subic town at 7 a.m. Sunday after strong winds toppled several electric posts.

Pampanga

In Pampanga, more than 100 families in Barangay Sto. Niño prepared for evacuation on Sunday as floodwaters rose to 5 feet, according to Gov. Manuel Lapid. Motorboats and a dump truck were sent to the village.

In Porac town, lahar loosened by rains buried a dump truck along the Porac-Gumain River on Sunday.

In the coastal towns of Sasmuan, Macabebe, Masantol and Minalin, floodwaters reached 2 feet in at least 50 low-lying villages.

But residents of Barangay Balite in Macabebe were on alert as water began to spill from the mouth of the Pampanga River, according to Pampanga Rep. Juan Pablo Bondoc.

In the City of San Fernando, the capital town of Pampanga, water reached waist-deep in 10 villages after four days of continuous rains.

Board Member Nestor Tolentino scored the Department of Public Works and Highways for the "poor implementation" of the Third River project.

Instead of starting the dredging down-



FLOOD victims along the swollen Marikina River seek refuge in a covered basketball court in Malanday, Marikina City.

DENNIS SABANGAN

stream, Tolentino said the DPWH began the work for the province's artificial waterway upstream.

He said this manner caused the floodwater to flow back instead of draining into the Manila Bay.

Bulacan

In Bulacan, at least four towns were reported submerged under 3 to 4 feet of floodwaters on Sunday.

Flooded were the villages of Bayugo, Gasak, Gaingin, Saluysoy, Calvario, Longos and Poblacion in Meycauayan; and the 11 villages of Obando. Also flooded were villages in the towns of Marilao and Bocaue.

Local officials said floodwater coming from Valenzuela City affected the nearby Meycauayan while water from Navotas and Malabon in Metro Manila had aggravated flooding in Obando.

Portions of the MacArthur Highway in Marilao and Bocaue were impassable to light vehicles on Sunday.

Officials of the Ipo dam in Norzagaray town ordered the release of 40.6 cubic meters of water per second after the dam's level surpassed the 100.5-meter spilling level on Saturday.

The release of the water started on Saturday night after the dam's water level reached 101.18 meters.

Water level at the Angat dam was recorded at 175.47 meters, way below its 214-meter spilling level.

Manila

By early afternoon yesterday, several streets in Manila remained impassable.

As of 2:45 p.m. yesterday, the streets of Dos Castillas, Oroquieta, the stretch from Maria Clara to Dimasalang, and España in front of the University of Santo Tomas were impassable to light vehicles, according to reports from the Western Police District Tactical Operations Center.

Also impassable were the Lagunilad in

front of the Manila City Hall, Dimasalang Circle, the stretch from Simon to Blumentritt, and Dapitan and P. Noval streets.

Ninety-four families living in the Lungga area near a creek in Sampaloc were evacuated to the Geronimo Elementary School and Trinidad Tecson Elementary School in Sampaloc.

Reports show that 11 families were brought to the Geronimo Elementary School, while 83 families were brought to the Trinidad Tecson Elementary School since Saturday afternoon.

At least 3,198 families living in 13 barangays were affected by flooding in Valenzuela City, with the water in Barangay P. Villa already reaching neck-high.

Malabon

In Malabon, 17 barangays were under water while at least five families from Tenejeros and Tonsuya had to be evacuated from their homes to their respective barangay halls.

Floodwater was deepest in Artex Compound, Barangay Panghulo, reaching chest level.

Because of the floods, three major thoroughfares in Navotas were impassable to light vehicles. They were Road 10 in Barangay North Boulevard-North, Lapu-Lapu Avenue and N. Naval Street in Barangay San Jose.

Also flooded were Gen. San Miguel Street, Samson Road in the Monumento area and Dagat-Dagatan Avenue, all in Caloocan City. But they were still passable as of press time.

But Landasca Street in Salvata Compound, Maypajo, Caloocan, was impassable to light vehicles after water from a river on A. Mabini Street, Maypajo, overflowed. **With reports from Donna S. Cueto, Agnes E. Donato and Gerald G. Lacuarta in Manila; Tonette Orejas, Carmela Reyes, Allan Macatuno and Cesar Villa, PDI Central Luzon Desk; AP and Reuters**

Summit to highlight kidnapping statistics

From page A1

In the first six months of 2001, a total of 92 persons were kidnapped in 48 incidents. If the mass abduction of Dos Palmas hostages on May 27, 2001 by the Abu Sayyaf is excluded, last year's first-semester total of kidnapping victims stood at 72.

Of this year's kidnap victims, 29 were Filipinos, 10 Chinese-Filipinos and six foreigners—two Indians, two Koreans and two Japanese.

Victims killed

Two of the foreigners were killed for failure to pay ransom.

Gurdith Sukhal, 19, an Indian money lender of Cadhit Street, Barangay Crisanto Sanchez, San Jose City, was kidnapped on Jan. 8 and killed Jan. 12, after his family failed to pay the P3-million ransom. His body was found on the national highway in Lupao, Nueva Ecija.

Takeshi Adachi, a 6-year-old Japanese-Filipino boy, was kidnapped on April 15 and found dead several days later in Norzagaray, Bulacan, after his mother failed to produce the P5-million ransom.

Korean businessman Jae Keon-yoon, along with Carlos Belonio, owner of Tierra Verde Hotel in General Santos City, were abducted while traveling along the boundary of Sarangani and Sultan Kudarat provinces on Feb. 6.

Japanese businessman Yukio Suzuki, 76, president of Murase Hotel Care Corp. in Tanauan, Batangas, was kidnapped on March 6 near his house in Rosario, Cavite. Kidnappers demanded P15 million in ransom, but he was rescued without paying any ransom two days later. During his debriefing, Suzuki told the police his kidnappers were also hiding two other foreigners—a Korean and a Japanese.

The latest foreigner to be kidnapped was Indian national Dalvir Lal, who was abducted in Tambo, Parañaque City, on May 10.

Solved cases

Of the 34 kidnap incidents, only 14 were classified as solved (meaning the suspects were identified, arrested and charged in court, or killed in a police encounter).

This shows that, even though the total number of kidnappings and victims has declined this year, the PNP's solution rate has fallen behind.

In the first six months of 2001, the PNP "solved" 33 of 48 kidnappings, or two out of every three cases. This year, only two out of every five cases were considered solved.

A total of 67 suspects in connection with the 14 solved cases were arrested; seven were killed in an encounter with police operatives.

Sixteen kidnap cases remain unsolved, while four other cases are "live"—meaning the victims are still in captivity.

At least 38 kidnappers, positively identified by the PNP as being behind several kidnappings, remain at large.

A total of 23 victims—one out of every two persons abducted—were released after payment of ransom. Twelve were rescued safely, while two were killed by their captors.

Two managed to escape, one of them a businesswoman-doctor from Valenzuela City.

PNP records show that January was the worst month, with 13 reported incidents involving 16 victims. In layman's terms, one person was kidnapped every other day during the first month of the year.

Nothing 'absurd' in Ople's terms to President

From page A1

accept an offer from President Macapagal-Arroyo, which he described as a "sovereign command," as long as it was not tied to the current impasse in the Senate.

The Senate is evenly divided 12-12 between the administration and opposition blocs, a deadlock that resulted from the defection of Sen. John Osmeña to the opposition.

Ople's acceptance of the DFA post will tip the balance in favor of the administration.

"With Ople voting for the opposition and later accepting the DFA post, his colleagues in the opposition can't really say that he turned his back on them," the source said.

Another revamp

Ople's condition for accepting the DFA post will work against the opposition, according to House Minority Leader Carlos Padilla.

The opposition congressman said a decision by Ople to accept the DFA post after July 22 would trigger yet another revamp

in the Senate.

"(Ople) can no longer vote for the opposition," he said in a phone interview. "So it's a precarious situation. It's not very good for the opposition."

He said Ople joining the Cabinet would be bad for the country because this would "decimate the opposition."

"We need a strong vibrant opposition," the minority leader said.

In Malacañang, acting Press Secretary Silvestre Afable confirmed that the DFA was indeed offered to Ople by representatives of Ms Macapagal. "They are not official in nature. They are just exploratory discussions," Afable said.

Dante Ang, personal publicist of the President, and Bulacan Rep. Willie Villarama, former aide of both Ms Macapagal and Ople, had talked to Ople in the United States last week regarding the DFA post.

Nothing official

Afable, however, stressed that "there are no official offers" yet.

He avoided giving a direct comment on objections by certain administration law-

makers to Ople's position that he would first vote for the opposition bloc in the Senate before entertaining offers for a Cabinet posting.

"His position in the Senate is a different matter and he has every right as a senator to make a position that he wants to take," Afable said. "Now, from the point of view of the Palace and as the President has said, we leave the Senate to institutionally take care of its problem."

"So we are not going to comment on the position of Senator Ople. He is well within his right to do whatever he wants in relation to the problem in the Senate," Afable added.

The three-member selection team earlier created by the President to come up with a list of potential candidates for the top DFA post has yet to meet, according to Afable.

The committee is composed of presidential adviser Victoria Garchitorena, Social Welfare Secretary Corazon Soliman and Labor Secretary Patricia Sto. Tomas.

Administration Sen. Robert Z. Barbers said there was no need for Malacañang to

constitute a "presidential search committee."

Barbers said no less than "the President himself can determine who is best qualified to be the next DFA secretary."

Career diplomats

If he accepts the top DFA post, Ople may have to contend with career diplomats who are quietly wishing that one of them be appointed by the President to replace Guingona.

"Foreign service officers are a very proud lot. They think that they know foreign policy and international relations more than anyone does. Naturally, they want somebody from their ranks to head the DFA," said a career diplomat.

Before Ople reportedly accepted "in principle" Ms Macapagal's offer for him to head the DFA, several career diplomats were being touted as the next foreign secretary.

They included alleged "dark horse" Ambassador Cesar Bautista, Asean Secretary General Rodolfo Severino and retired Ambassador Raul Rabe. **With reports from Norman Bordadora and Rocky Nazareno**

An opportunist masquerading as a statesman

From page A1

ganized on June 6 the Senate's committees.

There's no doubt from Ople's statement that he is titillated by the offer to head the premier Cabinet post—a job that's obviously too big for him and for which he does not have the energy to direct.

Clearly, he wants his cake and eat it, too, while posturing as the savior of the nation gripped by gridlock.

Ople has the effrontery to impose conditions of his entry into the Cabinet. He knows full well that Ms Macapagal's avid courtship has nothing to do with his credentials for the DFA; it has everything to do with a squalid and parochial political deal of using the DFA as a bargaining chip to enable her administration to regain control of the Senate.

The deal is rendered more reprehensible by the fact that Ms Macapagal's backroom operator—Dante Ang—journeyed to San Francisco where Ople had a medical checkup to try to seal the Faustian pact with the devil.

Ople's statement should be considered as a rebuff, and even an insult, to the President's clumsy initiative that reflects the immaturity of her political decisions.

As such, it is pointless, if not humiliating, for her to pursue further the scheme to use Ople as an option to end the Senate stalemate. There are other less humiliating options available to crack the ranks of the opposition.

If Ople intends to vote with his opposi-

tion colleagues to maintain their "new majority," then what's the point of rewarding Ople with the foreign affairs portfolio?

Overrated

A close examination of Ople's public service record brings out the fact that his credentials for the DFA post are overrated by his admirers and even by himself.

His exposure to international diplomacy is narrowly defined by his association with the International Labor Organization that he established during his days as labor minister of the Marcos dictatorship.

His networking with the Geneva-based ILO, plus his stint as chair of the Senate foreign relations committee, is insufficient to excel those offered by the bench of outstanding senior Filipino diplomats.

From the obsessive effort to draft Ople into the Cabinet, we can see that the President not only blows up Ople's already enlarged ego.

At the rate her administration is crawling at the feet of Ople to pirate a single vote that would tip the Senate balance of power in its favor, the administration has raised him to the status of a national treasure—which he is not.

Because of the inflated importance given by the Macapagal administration to Ople, naturally he has come to believe in the delusion that without him, Philippine foreign policy has no compass.

If we really come down to basics, what's at stake in the piracy of Ople is not the direction and substance of foreign policy but nothing less than a lurid horse-grading

over a single Senate vote.

Ms Macapagal needs Ople's vote badly but not his diplomatic skills and expertise. By recruiting Ople, the President is planting a time bomb in the architecture of her foreign policy.

Ople has an incredible record of political survival. He abandoned the Marcos regime during its dying days, joining a team led by former Executive Secretary Alex Melchor to arrange in Washington the transfer of power to Corazon Aquino.

During the presidency of Joseph Estrada, Ople was an Estrada ally.

Beyond explanation

That the President would consider wooing an opposition man, who has been identified with both Marcos and Estrada and who has been on the wrong side of history, is beyond explanation.

But it does reflect Ms Macapagal's flawed and immature political judgments. Ople's tendency to take nationalist postures does not ensure his compatibility with the President's policy preferences on issues over Philippines-US relations and a harmonious conduct of foreign policy.

If the President had difficult problems over aligning Vice President Teofisto Guingona Jr. behind her strong support for US President George W. Bush's war on international terrorism, Ople is even less predictable than Guingona.

If there had been any problem of policy discipline with Guingona, there would be no basis at all to be confident

of Ople's consistency.

2 things

That the President ignored the factor of compatibility and cohesion in foreign policy in seeking out Ople reveals two things.

• First, the subordination of foreign affairs to domestic political concerns.

• Second, the dragging of the DFA into the murky waters of Philippine domestic politics as a tool for political bargaining.

Consequently, the DFA and foreign policy are wasted as an asset for promoting Philippine interests vis-à-vis those of other country.

At a dinner on Thursday with INQUIRER editors, the President was asked whether she would be comfortable with having to work with a foreign secretary coming from the opposition.

She said something like this: Since Philippine parties are not structured on political principles, and the party definitions are blurred, it will not bother her to recruit opposition members from the Cabinet.

This remark reflects political cynicism. The offer to Ople has already drawn criticism from Lakas party members about rewarding the opposition with plum positions for the purpose of political expediency.

Father's experience

Apparently, the President is guided by the experience of her late father, President Diosdado Macapagal who was elected in 1961 with a Congress controlled by the opposition Nacionalista Party.

To get his legislative agenda moving, the elder Macapagal caused a number of opposition legislators to cross over to the administration's side to assemble a "new majority."

Political turncoatism has been an accepted political reality in Philippine politics, a method of gaining a legislative majority to clear the way for pushing a legislative agenda.

But there had never been an instance in which the DFA and the substance of foreign policy were sacrificed as bargaining leverage or used as rewards to break parochial political deadlocks.

Given the rank opportunism of Ople and the ineptitude, if not political immaturity of Ms Macapagal, the efforts to recruit Ople and bring him into the Cabinet have all but collapsed.

They have lost their logic. This option is increasingly hard to sell to the public.

Any attempt to revive it can only expose the President to further ridicule and cast more doubt on her political acumen in managing conflict.

Above politics

Above all, foreign policy, and the instrument through which it is carried out (the DFA), must at all times be above domestic politics. These instruments, deployed in promoting strategic national interests, cannot be wasted on Senate standoffs.

Above all, there's a limit to what the public can accept in trading-off Cabinet posts to gain short-term political advantage.

Medical teams bring hope to South

From page A1

City and Basilan three months ago was part of the government's "Gentle Wind Project" and was funded by the Humanitarian International Services Group.

Pascual recalled that it was difficult to sign up volunteers on account of security problems at the time. The military's rescue operations for the Abu Sayyaf's three remaining hostages had been intensified, and sporadic encounters between government troops and the bandits presented a serious obstacle to the outreach program.

She herself initially turned down the proposal to expand the mission to Basilan, Pascual admitted. The original coverage was only Zamboanga. She had very serious doubts, she said, when the possibil-

ity of expansion came up during a logistics meeting in February with Lt. Col. Danilo Servando, chief of the United Command staff for Civil-Military Operations of the U7 Southern Command.

But "compassion for the needy and obedience to the Lord's call" soon banished the volunteers' fears, including her own, Pascual said. Two months later, the team members left Zamboanga in a ferry bound for Basilan.

Escorted by troops and together with several military physicians, the volunteers pitched their tents in places that even locals did not dare set foot in.

Kidnappers' haven

Sakul Island, known in Mindanao as a kidnappers' haven, was one such high-risk area that received the team's services. This initiative would

encourage subsequent government assistance. Pascual recalled, "Our success made local governments see that it was possible to get work done in these places."

Not infrequently, Pascual said, they were told that they were just wasting time, money and effort. "But at that point we truly felt that it was the only way a nation could be rebuilt," she said.

The team's dedication and courage had been rewarded with "divine protection," Pascual insisted, relating a specific incident to illustrate.

A town called Maluso had been on the team's second-day schedule, but the health workers decided to proceed to the place on their first day. Soon after the workers left Maluso for their next destination, suspected Abu Sayyaf

bandits attacked the town.

Such incidents of imminent danger could not drive away the spirited workers. At the end of this mission, the medical volunteers had treated 10,000 Muslims and Christians.

The team's attention wasn't all focused on sick people. In many places, while the doctors kept full clinics, the other volunteers entertained children of both government soldiers and suspected rebels with parties and games. They distributed toys and learning materials to a total of 2,700 kids.

This, Pascual said, was exactly how Operation Blessing meant to help. "We serve people in war-torn areas. We give hope to soldiers who do not know if they would see their families again. We pray for all fathers caught in

the conflict."

Working with the military and local governments, Pascual said she had witnessed how military doctors served even rebels' families.

More missions

This month, Operation Blessing goes to the Abu Sayyaf-infiltrated towns of Lamitan, Lantawan, Patikul, Sumisip, Tipo-Tipo, Tuburan and Malawi Island in Isabela City. For the last leg of the program, the team proceeds to strife-torn Tawi-Tawi, Jolo, Zamboanga del Norte and Sibugay.

The medical missions are part of the "peace offensives" that Operation Blessing launched in Mindanao five years ago, when the government's biggest problem there was not so much the kidnapping bandits, but the secessionists.

With 60 volunteers, the first

mission went to Tarragona, Davao Oriental, in September 1997. It was the rebels' hideout, definitely a no-man's land. The medical team served at least 3,000 residents there, Pascual said, generating such "heartwarming" reactions as, "Christians are not all that bad," and "People in Manila care about us."

"There's no way you can measure just how much difference this kind of service makes in the life of a child, or a mother, or a farmer, who has never seen a doctor," Pascual said. "It's also our way of showing that Christ loves them."

Since it was founded in the Philippines in 1996, Operation Blessing has served more than a million people in Asia, through at least 120 medical missions that involved 5,000 professional volunteers.

How electronic ...

From page A1

and other supplies delivered occasionally to the hostages, the intelligence source said.

He declined to describe the gadgets in detail, because they were "classified" and are still being used in ongoing operations against Khadaffy Janjalani, Ghalib Andang, Isnilon Hapilon and the other bandit leaders.

The electronic tag, which sources called a "transponder," was embedded in Sabaya's backpack by an intelligence asset who had penetrated the group. The "transponder" emitted a signal that appeared on an "electronic map" of the general area of location.

"Wherever the backpack went, Sabaya was sure to be there. Wherever and whenever Gracia made a call, Sabaya must have been nearby because she was using his satellite phone," the source said.

"Matagal na siyang may dikit (Sabaya was carrying that electronic ID for sometime)," the source added. The "tag" can be attached to any piece of clothing, shoes or apparel that's worn close to the body. (Scientists also use electronic tags on animals to study their movement and behavior. Some zoos are also known to implant "transponders" in the skin of rare animal species as insurance against animal theft.)

Satellite signal

The satellite beacon was present in the pump boat that Sabaya hired on June 21. An electronic gadget favored also by fishermen, a beacon has a "chip" that emits signals which a satellite can pick up.

The pump boat's "signals" showed up on the electronic map, which guided the troops who pursued Sabaya that night.

"It was a setup and the owner of the pump boat cooperated with us," the source said. Troops tracked down Sabaya that night, cornering him in an encounter in the waters off Sibuco, Zamboanga del Norte.

But all the world's technology would have not worked without "intelligence operatives to verify the information," the source, who is a ranking military official, told INQ7.net, the Internet joint venture of the INQUIRER and GMA-7.

He said the electronic surveillance system used against Sabaya was similar to that being used against Osama bin Laden. The major difference is that the Bin Laden data could not be verified because the United States does not have "assets" within the terrorist leader's inner circle, the source said.

The plot to bring in electronic gadgets inside the Abu Sayyaf camp—and "tagging" Sabaya with an electronic ID in particular—was suggested by military intelligence to their American counterparts.

The Americans approved the plan, the source said, and readily made the gadgets available.

Previous monitoring

The military had already been monitoring the airwaves over Basilan Island for phone calls coming from "identified" Abu Sayyaf-owned cellular and satellite phones, the source said.

Sabaya committed a blunder when he allowed Gracia to make calls using his satellite phone, the source added.

He said the military always welcomed the voice of Gracia—or those of her husband Martin and fellow hostage Edibora Yap—because "it was already proof of life."

"It was also a confirmation that Sabaya was nearby because it was his satellite phone," he said.

This reporter was allowed to listen to excerpts of Gracia's conversation with a woman friend on a cellular phone. Gracia was chirpy and in a light mood. In another taped conversation, Gracia was giving instructions about the supplies she needed, apparently from the New Tribes Mission office in Manila.

The conversations were surprisingly clear and without interruption. The INQ7.net source asked that the details of the conversation be kept secret to protect ongoing operations.

The source said the satellite phone also helped locate Sabaya. "But there was a big margin of error, like 10 square kilometers," he said. The presence of other electronic gadgets, however, made up for it.

In Basilan, some of the 500 US troops deployed to help government soldiers in the hunt for the Abu Sayyaf are already packing up to leave, a spokesperson of the American troops said yesterday.

With a report from AFP



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RP turns to Hollywood

From page A1

actor Brad Pitt will be in town for location shooting of another of film's endless war epics.

Rated low as a tourist destination among the Asia-Pacific's sun and sand destinations, the Philippines has launched a campaign to shed its image as a land of kidnapping and violence.

"If Hollywood actors are able to live here and shoot (movies) peacefully, it will bolster our efforts to promote the Philippines internationally," Glodell Medina, a senior official at the Department of Tourism, told Reuters.

But it may be a long, hard climb for a country dubbed the "kidnapping capital of Asia."

Eleven days after US missionary Martin Burnham and Filipino nurse Ediborah Yap, held hostage by the Abu Sayyaf for over a year, were killed during a military rescue operation in the jungle of Zamboanga del Norte, four Indonesian crewmen of a tugboat passing through the country's southern seas were kidnapped.

"People are too scared to travel to the Philippines after hearing about the recent cases,"

a tour consultant in Singapore said.

In Manila itself, residents of one neighborhood awoke one June morning to news that a South Korean diplomat had been found dead on a street after a Filipino befriended him and invited him for drinks.

Later in the month, 13 people were wounded in a shootout between police and armed criminals during morning rush hour on EDSA, one of the capital's busiest streets.

Unsafe image

"The Philippines definitely does not rank in the top 10 destinations for travel in Asia-Pacific," Alicia Seah, assistant general manager of Sino-America (UIC) Tours in Singapore, told Reuters. "The majority of tourists have a perception that it is unsafe."

"It is not so much that the Philippines is unfamiliar, as it is that the adverse publicity that the country has received in the last couple of months that is negatively affecting tourism there," she added.

The manager at Palawan's Dos Palmas resort, where Burnham and his wife were abducted in May 2001, said his foreign client

tele had fallen by more than half since the kidnapping, which was staged by bandits linked to Osama bin Laden's al-Qaida network.

"The fact that we were in the headlines was damaging," Dos Palmas general manager Ivan Lim said, adding that security around the resort had since been tightened to prevent future raids.

Police have also bolstered security around other popular resorts as part of the government's effort to rid the archipelago of its image as an unsafe tourist destination.

"We have 5,870 college graduates who are going into the police force this July. We've tightened up. Our airport has been selected as one of the safest in the world, in the top 10... Beach resorts have been alerted," Tourism Secretary Richard Gordon said.

In the wake of the Korean diplomat's killing, police set up a special force of 1,700 men to protect embassies and other key foreign establishments in Manila.

Kidnapping has become a thriving business, with gangs collecting more than P200 mil-



A GUIDE waits for tourists at the ruins of a historic port on the resort island of Marinduque. Rated low among the Asia-Pacific sun-and-sand destinations, the Philippines has launched a campaign to shed its image as a land of kidnapping and violence.

REUTERS

lion in ransom from families of about 240 victims during 2001, according to anti-crime watch groups.

While statistics related to kidnapping may be declining this year, the country's unglamorous image has persisted, largely be-

cause the media have played up high-profile cases, officials say.

This is where the government hopes Brad Pitt will come in.

"I went up to Hollywood and I spoke with some producers there and they seemed very enthusiastic about coming down to the Philippines," Gordon said in an interview.

"We're expecting these movies to start filming here by January 2003."

He said Pitt had signed up to do a war film titled "Fertig" for Sony-Columbia Pictures.

Another movie, "Great Raid," by producer Paula Wagner was to be filmed extensively in Corregidor and Bataan, historic World War II battlegrounds just west of Manila.

"I think it (tourism) is going to

improve," Gordon said. "The Abu Sayyaf has nowhere to go. They're going to be chased everywhere they go. They don't have a future."

Gordon downplayed fears that the Burnham kidnap tragedy would scare foreign tourists.

"This is the jungle you're talking about. This is a place where tourists don't go... Why do we make it sound like the Philippines is the only one with a problem?"

About 1.8 million tourists visited the Philippines last year.

"I can't complain... It shows that there are people who are still loyal to us," Gordon said. "I'd like to think that we could hit 3 million by 2003. It's my hope."

Reuters

Pinoy dead, another missing in ship fire

From page A1

heading for Chiba Port, the official said on condition of anonymity.

Rescuers from the Japan Coast Guard found crew member Christopher Castillo, 21, dead in the ship's engine room. The cause of his death was still being examined, the official said.

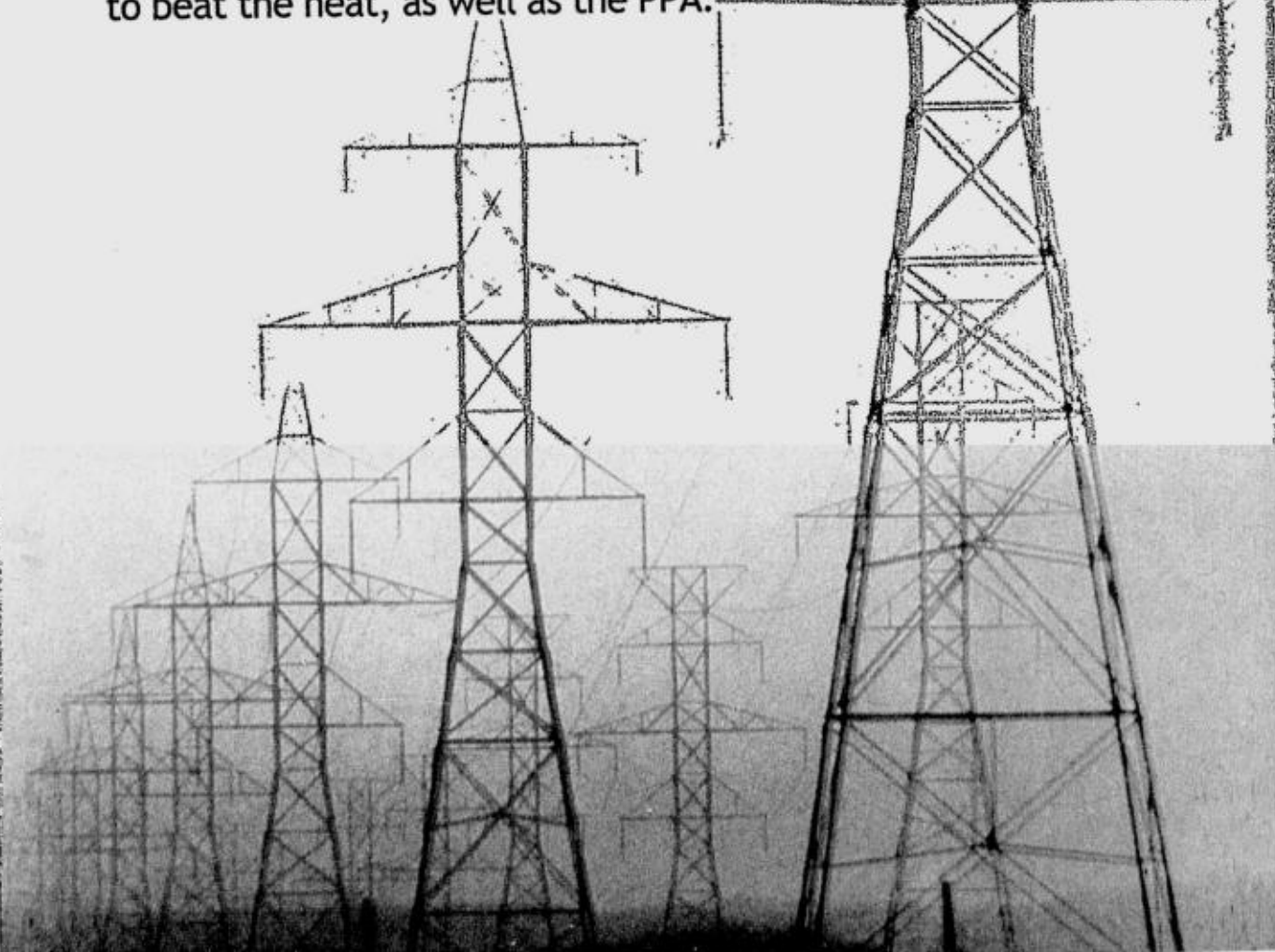
Second-class engineer Pergentino Agbon, 52, was still missing.

The 19 remaining crew, all from the Philippines, were unhurt, he said.

The fire has been extinguished and the ship is expected to be towed to the port by a salvage boat. Coast guard officials were still investigating what caused the fire.

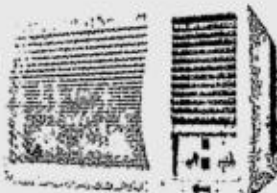
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THE DAILY GOSPEL



Monday, July 8, 2002
14th Week in Ordinary Time

1st Reading: Hos 2:16, 17-18, 21-22
Gospel: Mt 9:18-26

While Jesus was speaking, an official of the synagogue came up to him, bowed before him and said, "My daughter has just died, but come and place your hands on her, and she will live." Jesus stood up and followed him with his disciples.

Then a woman who had suffered from a severe bleeding for twelve years came up from behind and touched the edge of his cloak. For she thought, "If I only touch his cloak, I will be healed." Jesus turned, saw her and said, "Courage, my daughter, your faith has saved you." And from that moment the woman was cured.

When Jesus arrived at the official's house and saw the flute players and the excited crowd, he said, "Get out of here! The girl is not dead. She is only sleeping!" And they laughed at him. But once the crowd had been turned out, Jesus went in and took the girl by the hand, and she stood up. The news of this spread through the whole area.

Commentary

Who touched me? Jesus asked to bring the sick woman from anonymity to a personal encounter. She had been isolated because of her illness for the past twelve years. She wanted to touch Jesus and be cured. Moments later it will be Jesus who will take the hand of the dead girl to bring her to life. To touch is to tear down walls, to destroy indifference and distances, to open the way to connectedness. In order to grow as persons we need others, to be with them, to feel part of a family, a social group. As Christians we too cannot do without a community, a Church; without touching bread and wine, without confessing to concrete persons. Our God is incarnate. Courage! Your faith and capacity to get close can bring you to life.

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SUPREME COURT DOCTRINES



REMEDIAL LAW (EVIDENCE)—Ex parte affidavit—The general rule has always been that discrepancies between the statements of the witness in his affidavit and those he makes on the witness stand do not necessarily discredit him because it is a matter of judicial experience that an affidavit taken *ex parte* is almost always incomplete and often inaccurate. The exceptions thereto, which impair the credibility of the witness, are: (1) when the narration in the sworn statement substantially contradicts the testimony in court, or (2) when the omission in the affidavit refers to a very important detail of the incident that one relating the incident as an eyewitness cannot be expected to fail to mention. The point of inquiry is whether the contradictions are important and substantial, and in this case, the Court finds the contradictions touching on important and substantial matters. [Citations omitted.] [Justice Carpio, Third Division, People v. Narvaez, G.R. No. 140759, January 24, 2002]

DIGEST BY R.B. VERA

GMA-Tito row sign of weak presidency, says minority

BAYOMBONG, Nueva Vizcaya—The brewing fiasco within the Macapagal administration, sparked by the supposed mishandling of the resignation of Vice President Teofisto Guingona Jr. as foreign secretary, is a clear sign of a weak presidency, according to House Minority Leader Carlos Padilla.

Padilla issued the statement in reaction to an earlier pronouncement of Presidential Adviser Joey Rufino, blaming the political opposition for "sowing discord within the administration."

"The rift between the two (highest officials of the country) is not the making of the opposition. It is the *wrong-sulong* (indecisive) stand of President Macapagal-Arroyo (on certain issues) that is responsible for whatever mess it has brought about," Padilla told reporters here on Sunday.

"Honest differences in opinion" over government policies have reportedly cost the post for Guingona, a staunch critic of the continued presence of American troops in the country.

"This goes to show how weak the President is (as) she could not even handle a thing such as the resignation of a member of her Cabinet," Padilla, who represents the lone congressional district of Nueva Vizcaya, said.

"And because of the mishandling, it has produced adverse effects in all sectors of government."

Last week, Guingona officially left his DFA portfolio, leaving behind traces of bad blood with Palace insiders who, he said, wanted him booted out.

It was that group which was reportedly responsible for the "premature" announcement of Guingona's resignation, which the President

had supposedly accepted in a reply letter.

Padilla said administration officials should not resort to finger pointing, as the President

has only herself to blame for the mess.

"In the first place, it was not the (members of the) opposition who signed the letter accept-

ing the resignation of Guingona as DFA secretary," Padilla explained.

"Secondly, it was not the opposition who announced that Guingona

has resigned, but no less than the spokesman of the President. So, why (do they) suddenly blame the opposition?" he asked.

In these moments when the country is down, "we should rally our people to unite through the initiative of the government,"

Padilla said. "But how can you effectively encourage the people to unite if the leadership itself is the one sowing disunity?"

Padilla also expressed doubts over the claims of Malacañang officials that the rift between Ms. Macapagal and Guingona had been patched up,

"because even at the height of that conflict, they were claiming there was no problem." **Melvin Gascon, PDI N. Luzon Bureau**

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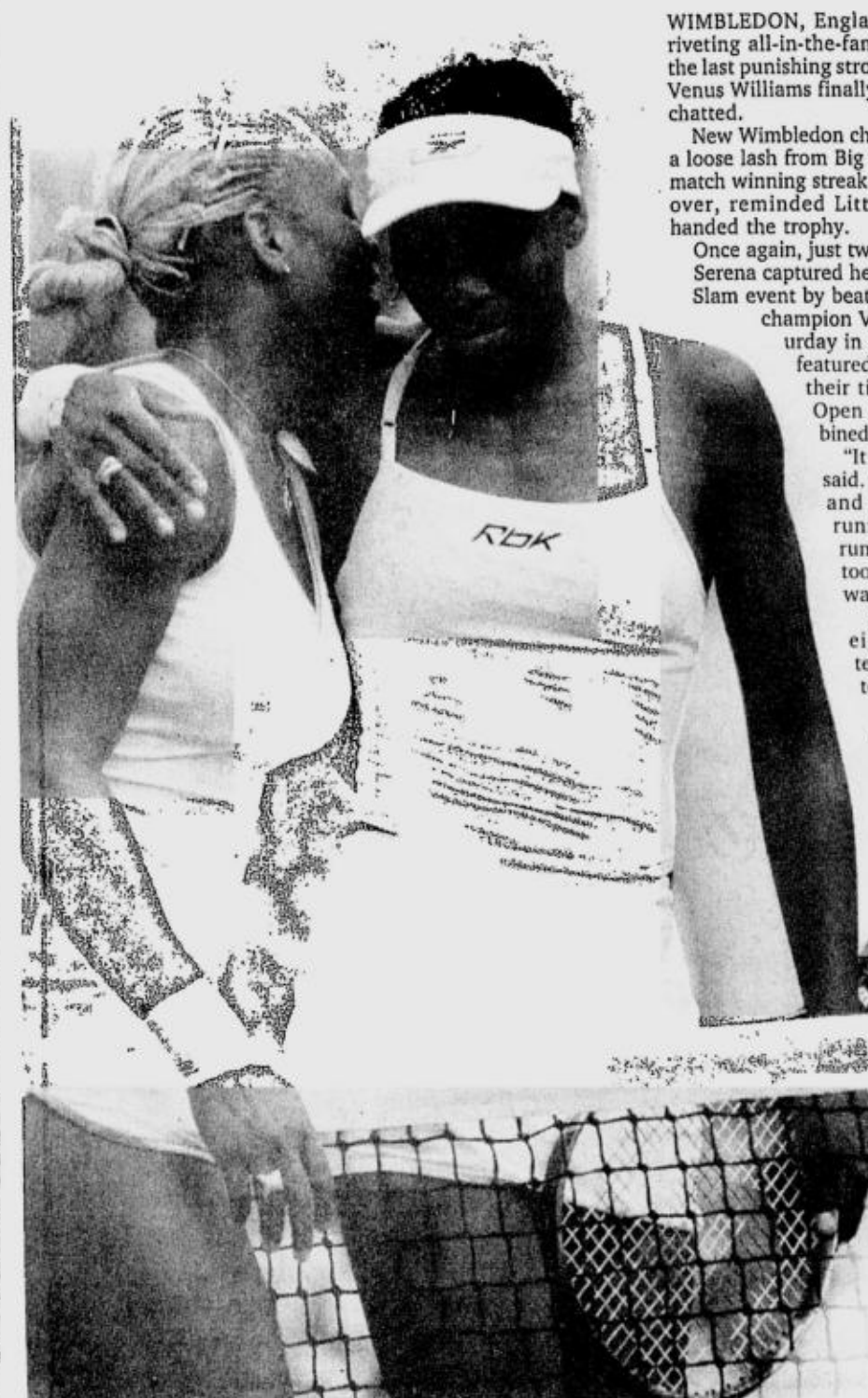
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'SISTER SLAM III'

Serena shoots down Venus



SERENA Williams (left) whispers something to Venus after beating her older sister in the final, 7-6, 6-3.

WIMBLEDON, England—When their most riveting all-in-the-family final was finished, the last punishing stroke swatted, Serena and Venus Williams finally made eye contact and chatted.

New Wimbledon champion Serena plucked a loose lash from Big Sis' eye. Venus, her 20-match winning streak at the All England Club over, reminded Little Sis to curtsy when handed the trophy.

Once again, just two best friends. Sisters. Serena captured her second straight Grand Slam event by beating two-time defending champion Venus, 7-6 (4), 6-3, Saturday in a pulsating display that featured more stellar shots than their title matches at the U.S. Open and French Open combined.

"It was really fun," Serena said. "We were really serving and returning. Venus was running down a lot of balls, too. It was a good match to watch."

Unlike their previous eight matches, which tended to be more lackluster than blockbuster.

And now there's little doubt that Serena is No. 1, which she will be for the first time in Monday's new rankings.

AP

rankings.

drop a set

en route to

her first

Wimbledon

championship,

has won a season-

best 19 straight

matches, and is 36-

3 with a tour-leading

five titles in

2002.

Plus, she's

beaten her older

sister three straight

times to pull within 5-

4 in their pro careers. At

20, Serena is 15 months

younger.

"She was just tremen-

dous today," said Venus,

who drops to second in

the rankings. "There

wasn't a lot between us.

Just on some of those points, she was getting some that I couldn't get."

Particularly in the first set, each Williams was at the top of her game. They traded powerful strokes and dueling grunts from the baseline, aiming for the lines—and hitting them.

A sketch of one of the points would look like a "Batman" strip:

Crack! Serena delivers a serve at 100 mph. Boom! Venus whacks a backhand return to the corner.

Pow! Serena laces a cross-court forehand. And so on.

Key statistics

It came down to two key statistics. Serena had more winners, 20-14, and Venus had more double faults, 6-2.

The last came on break point in the eighth game of the second set, on a serve that fluttered over the net at 67 mph and landed 6 inches wide. Quite out of character for four-time major champion Venus, who regularly tops 100 mph but had a sore right shoulder. She stretched it during the last changeover and after the match.

"I noticed it. Definitely," said Serena, who won the family's first major title at the 1999 U.S. Open. "If I'm a competitor, I'm going to have to notice it. Unfortunately, it's like a war out there. If there's a weakness, someone's going to have to be attacked."

On Sunday, No. 1 Lleyton Hewitt will face No. 28 David Nalbandian for the men's title. Nalbandian is the first player to reach the final in his Wimbledon debut in the Open era. He advanced by finishing off a rain- and darkness-delayed, 7-6 (2), 6-4, 1-6, 2-6, 6-2, semifinal victory over Xavier Malisse.

Doubles final

Two hours after the sisters' final, they returned to Centre Court and reached the doubles final by beating Anna Kournikova and Chanda Rubin, 6-7 (3), 6-0, 6-3.

The singles final was the first between siblings at Wimbledon since the very first edition in 1884, when Maud and Lillian Watson wore hats and long dresses.

Settling Grand Slam titles is nothing new to Venus and Serena.

They met in the U.S. Open final last September (Venus won despite only seven winners), and in the French Open final last month (combining for 101 unforced errors in Serena's victory).

And just as in those encounters, they seemed to try to block out the idea of facing a sister. After all, it's not often in pro sports that a championship is decided between people who live and practice together.



NALBANDIAN drops to his knees following his win over Malisse, 7-6, 6-4, 1-6, 2-6, 6-2.

Wilson-backed Williamses up

SERENA Williams is on top of the world. And a new, hi-tech Wilson racket has tremendously helped her zoom to the No. 1 spot in the women's tennis rankings.

Armed with a the newly-launched Hyper Hammer 6.2, Williams bludgeoned her rivals in the Wimbledon final on Saturday to cap her coronation as new queen of tennis.

It was Serena's power brand of tennis that catapulted her to glory and with her immense talent, the opposition just had to bow to her grit and determination.

Now, Venus is said to be considering a shift from her current Hyper Hammer 4.0 to what Serena is using if she is to neutralize the power of her sister.

But together, the Williams sisters will be gunning for the doubles crown, with the same brand of equipment that has guided them to their grand slam victories.

"Wilson, no doubt, is benefitting a lot from this partnership with the Williams sisters. Their streak in the majors are a proof to the kind of Hyper technology Wilson is creating for the tennis world," said Junjun Plana, general manager of Wilson Sports Philippines.

Sorenstam ahead by 2 shots

Lance rules opener

LUXEMBOURG—Lance Armstrong surprised almost no one but himself by opening his bid for a fourth straight Tour de France title with a victory in Saturday's prologue.

"It's a surprise and a good surprise, I'm happier than you think," the Texan told reporters after winning the Tour's opening leg, a 7-kilometer (4.34-mile) individual time trial.

The 30-year-old won in 9 minutes and 8 seconds, topping Frenchman Laurent Jalabert by two seconds and Raimondas Rumšas of Lithuania by three.

Armstrong is the overwhelming favorite to win the Tour, and he lost no time reclaiming the leader's yellow jersey he has taken home the last three years.

HUTCHINSON, Kansas—Annika Sorenstam had another 1-under 69 on Saturday in the U.S. Women's Open, putting herself in perfect position to win her second major of the year by building a two-stroke lead over Jill McGill and the scrambling Juli Inkster.

Sorenstam, already a winner in half of her 12 events this year, hit every fairway, missed only three greens and seized control with a rare birdie on No. 16, hitting her approach into 12 feet on the brick-green.

"If I can continue what I'm doing, I'll be happy," Sorenstam said.

At the end of a sweltering afternoon on the prairie—so hot that Sorenstam broke out an umbrella to shield herself from the sun—the super Swede was the only one under par at 208.

Inkster hit only eight greens but saved par seven times to give herself a good chance at becoming the oldest U.S. Women's Open champion. Pay Crocker was 40 years, 11 months when she won in 1955.

The 42-year-old Inkster dropped a shot on the final hole by driving into the left rough, coming up well short of the green in more rough and missing a 10-footer. She had a 71.

"I'm going to have to play better," Inkster said. "I played well with what I had. Annika is not going to make any mistakes. But do I think I have a chance? I do."

Meanwhile, Jenny Rosales turned in her worst score in three days, a four-over-par 74, and slid to joint 31st place after the penultimate round.

Rosales reeled back on a sorry stretch of a double-bogey on the 14th and two more bogeys on the 16th and 17th. She fell 12 strokes back solo leader Sorenstam with a 219 aggregate for 54 holes.

Starting the day in 17th place, Rosales was within the Top 20 after reaching the 13th only at one over.

Disaster struck Dorothy Delasin who soared to a 78 and was second to last at 227. With a report from Jong Arcano



SORENSTAM

Allenby comfortable, confident

LEI ONT, Illinois—Robert Allenby followed an eagle on the par-5 15th with a birdie, shooting a 7-under 65 and taking a two-stroke lead in the third round of the Western Open on Saturday.

"I'm looking forward to tomorrow," said Allenby, the 2000 champion, who was at 15-under 201 after 54 holes. "I'm feeling pretty comfortable and confident with the way I'm playing."

Neal Lancaster, who hasn't won since 1994, was at 203 after a 5-under 67. Jerry Kelly and Bob Estes were at 204, and Davis Love III and second-round leader Jon Cook were another

stroke back.

"I had a lot of opportunities to make birdie," Lancaster said. "I left three, four, five out there. But you've got to be happy when you make eight."

The leaderboard was locked up tight for most of the afternoon, with nobody making a significant move. Stuart Appleby got to 13-under on the 11th hole, then slipped back to the pack with a double-bogey two holes later.

At one point in the round, about 20 players were within four strokes of the lead.

NCAA goes South

WITHOUT the usual media fanfare, the National Collegiate Athletic Association-South celebrates its fourth year of sports competitions at 8 a.m. on Saturday, Aug. 3, at host school St. Benedict Sports Center in Alabang.

NCAA-South is composed of Colegio San Juan de Letran (Calamba), De La Salle (Lipa), Philippine Christian University (Dasmariñas), San Sebastian College (Cavite City), University of Perpetual Help System (Laguna), host St. Benedict College (Alabang), sister school of San Beda College-Manila; and guest team Lyceum of Batangas.

"In this tournament, college men and women and high school boys and girls will compete in various sports such as basketball, volleyball, chess, swimming, soccer, table tennis, lawn tennis and badminton," said St. Benedict's Fr. Paul de Vera, who helped organize NCAA-South in 1998 to address the growing desire for the well-being and quest for excellence of the Filipino youth. This year's theme of NCAA-South is "Peace and Understanding through Sports Excellence."

NCAA-South is the smaller version of the Manila-based NCAA, said De Vera, who is, outside of his priestly ministry, very much involved in sports not only in his school but also in this region south of Metro Manila. The country's oldest collegiate league, the NCAA was founded with little media flair in 1924 by the late sportsman-educator Dr. Regino Ylanan, then physical education director of the University of the Philippines. The founding member-schools included UP, Ateneo, National University, Jose Rizal College, San Beda College, University of Santo Tomas, Letran College and Mapua Tech.

Regarded as the country's most glamorous and most popular league, its basketball "wars" for instance used to attract an immense following unparalleled in the history of Philippine sports.

CLEAN LIVING

Manolo R. Iñigo



Over the years, the NCAA produced some of the greatest Filipinos on record; among them Pres. Manuel Quezon, Letran's most distinguished alumnus who became the first Filipino president of the defunct Philippine Amateur Athletic Federation in 1916; Ateneo cheerleader Ninoy Aquino, the martyr who would have been president of the Philippines; former Foreign Affairs Secretary Raul Manglapus, who composed Ateneo's fighting song, "Fly High Blue Eagles the King"; basketball Olympian and Hall of Famer Sen. Ambrosio Padilla, also of Ateneo; famous high jumper and 1932 Olympic bronze medal winner Simeon Toribio of Mapua Tech; the fabled Carlos Loyzaga of San Beda; Asia's first chess grandmaster Eugene Torre of Mapua Tech, plus many more.

Many other sporting greats also came from the NCAA, among them Lauro "The Fox" Mumar of Letran's fabled Murder, Inc., San Beda's Tony Genato, the late Eddie Lim, Meliton Santos and Pons Saldaña; La Salle's Manolet Araneta, Ramoncito Campos and Eddie Decena; Ateneo's Ed Ocampo; Jose Rizal's Mariano "Nano" Tolentino and Florentino Bautista. Four-time World-Bowling Cup champion Paeng Nepomuceno is also a product of the NCAA having finished his elementary and high school education at La Salle where he also took up two years of college studies before completing his college course at Adamson University. For truly, the NCAA is a rich source of sports heroes.

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WHEEL LOADER

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Trade rumors

A NUMBER of prominent names have been going the rounds of NBA trade rumor mills.

They include New Orleans' Baron Davis, New York's Latrell Sprewell, Cleveland's Andre Miller, Orlando's Mike Miller, Phoenix's Penny Hardaway and the LA Clippers' Lamar Odom.

The 6-3 Davis, who helped guide the Hornets to the Eastern semifinal playoffs last campaign in the franchise's farewell stint in Charlotte with a sterling 22.6-point, 7.9-assist, 7.0-rebound performance, has been offered a six-year contract extension by his current club. However, the 23-year-old All-Star playmaker said he would rather play in Los Angeles, Chicago or New York—three major-market cities—than relocate to New Orleans next season.

Several clubs have called about Davis' availability, but Hornets executive Bob Bass has turned down all offers and does not intend to trade Davis under any circumstances. Among the teams interested in his services is the LA Clippers, who reportedly are offering drug-troubled forward Lamar Odom for Davis, an LA native and UCLA product who like Odom is eligible for restricted free agency after next campaign if a contract extension is not struck this summer.

The Clippers badly need a top-flight point guard as they do not intend to re-sign unrestricted free agent Jeff McInnis, who got the starting job at "1" a year ago by default. If Davis is unavailable, the Clippers will go after the Cavaliers' Andre

NBA NOTES

Henry Liao



Miller, the NBA assist leader last season whose demand for a contract extension worth the maximum amount allowable under the NBA's collective bargaining agreement is unacceptable to Cleveland management. The Clippers are offering any three of their frontcourt players with the exception of Elton Brand and restricted free-agent center Michael Olowokandi—take your pick from veterans Lamar Odom, Darius Miles and Corey Maggette and first-round draft choices Chris Wilcox (Maryland, No. 8 draftee overall) and Melvin Ely (Presno State, No. 12)—to the Cavs for the 6-2 Miller, who may have become expendable with Cleveland's first-round drafting of explosive 6-3 guard Dajuan Wagner (Memphis, No. 6).

Washington probably will make a run at Miller although it might not have enough salary-cap space to get him. Another Miller, Orlando's 6-8 swingman Mike Miller and the 2001 NBA Rookie of the Year, is also on the Wizards' trade shopping list. The Wiz almost acquired Mike in a Draft Day deal, along with center Andrew DeClercq and the Magic's first-rounder (No. 18 overall).

NCAA TODAY

Stags tackle Cardinals today

By June Navarro

GAMES TODAY (Rizal Memorial Coliseum)
11:30 a.m.—Mapua vs San Sebastian (Jrs/srs)
4 p.m.—Letran vs JRU (Jrs/srs)

FOUR squads take try to bolt out of a six-way tie at the resumption of the NCAA basketball tournament today at the Rizal Memorial Coliseum.

Defending champion San Sebastian College and Mapua Institute of Technology clash at 2 p.m. before Letran College tests Jose Rizal University's mettle in the other seniors' match at 4 p.m. The Stags, Cardinals, Knights and Heavy Bombers all sport 1-1 cards.

Except for the Heavy Bombers who blasted the Cardinals, 84-75, on Friday, the rest are coming off from cruel setbacks with the Stags dropping a 74-72 decision against the College of St. Benilde and the Knights yielding to the PCU Dolphins, 67-56.

The Stags almost had victory within their grasp but a daredevil drive by Jan Anthony Coching in the final 4.1 seconds lifted the Blaz-

ers to their second straight victory.

Playmaker Christian Coronel, Paul Reguerra, Nurjamjam Alfad, Leomar Najorda, Roy Falcasantos and the 6-foot-7 Pep Moore will lead the Stags' attack.

Standing on their way are marksman Roberto Lagar, Erwin Sta. Maria, Christian Guevarra, power forward Edsel Feliciano and sophomore playmaker Ryan Malig, who shone for the Cardinals' 74-68 win over the PCU Dolphins in the opener.

"We'll try to match up man for man against San Sebastian. But honestly, they (Stags) have a stronger lineup in terms of talent and experience so all we have to do is double our efforts and put up a good stand," said Mapua coach Horacio Lim.

While the Stags and Cardinals would be relying on their gifted veterans, the Knights and Heavy Bombers hope something explosive comes out from their rookie-laden rosters.

Bataan leads semifinalists

SAN Fernando, Pampanga—Bataan-A (Governor's Office), Laguna (Calamba) and Bohol (San Miguel) won their final elimination matches to advance to the semifinals of the 2002 Inter-Provincial Chess Team Championship at the Robinson's Starmills here.

Grandmaster Joey Antonio beat IM Chito Garma as Bataan-A downed La Union, 3.5-5 rout, while Laguna frustrated host Pampanga, 2.5-1.5. Bohol whipped Negros Occidental, 3-1, to complete the semifinal cast.

Basilan, bannered by GM Eugene Torre, qualified as early as the eighth round in the semifinals. Torre drew with NM Joseph Perez as Basilan lost a no-bearing game to Bulacan (Russians), 3-1.

Dennis Erosa

SPORTS ON TV Compiled by Lorenzo Manguiat

TENNIS: Wimbledon Lawn Tennis Championships, Day #13 Highlights at 8 a.m. and 12:30 p.m., Day 13 - Men's Singles Final and Ladies Doubles Final at 12 noon (r) on Star Sports

MOTOR SPORTS: Race Day - British Grand Prix at 6:30 p.m. (r) on Star Sports
2002 F1 World Championship - British Grand Prix at 7:15 p.m. (r) on Star Sports
Chequered Flag - British Grand Prix at 9:30 p.m. (r) on Star Sports

GOLF: U.S. Women's Open Golf Championship, Final Round at 1 p.m. and 8:30 p.m. (r) on ESPN

PGA Advil Western Open, Final Round at 4 p.m. (r - 10 p.m.) on Star Sports

CYCLING: Tour De France 2002 Highlights Stage #1 at 12:30 p.m. (r - 6:30 p.m.) on ESPN

Jays snap slump

NEW YORK—Steve Parris earned his first victory of the season and the Toronto Blue Jays ended their six-game losing streak by defeating the New York Yankees, 8-3.

Parris (1-2), making his fifth start since returning from rotator cuff surgery, held the Yankees to four hits over the first seven innings Saturday, two singles each by Nick Johnson and Robin Ventura. He walked two and struck out four.

Andy Pettitte (2-3) lasted just 3 1/3 innings in his fifth start since returning from the disabled list. He allowed six runs on 10 hits with five strikeouts.

Red Sox 8, Tigers 0
Pedro Martinez won his fourth start in a row as the Boston Red Sox beat the Detroit Tigers. AP

Complete results:
National League—San Francisco 3, Arizona 2; Los Angeles 4, St. Louis 2, 11 innings; Chicago Cubs 7, Atlanta 3; Florida 5, N.Y. Mets 2; Houston 10, Pittsburgh 2; Montreal 5, Philadelphia 3; Cincinnati 6, Milwaukee 4; Colorado 3, San Diego 2.
American League—Boston 8, Detroit 0; Chicago White Sox 7, Cleveland 3; Toronto 8, N.Y. Yankees 3; Kansas City 4, Oakland 3, 10 innings; Baltimore 7, Texas 5; Minnesota 7, Seattle 2; Anaheim 4, Tampa Bay 3. AP

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SPORTS

Editor Al S. Mendoza • Assistant Editor Edwin M. Villanueva

SUERTRES 2 7 9
(in exact order)
SUPERLOTTO 6/49
 11 31 47 36 15

Ginebra stuns Talk N Text

By June Navarro

Standings	W	L
Red Bull	3	1
Coca-Cola	3	1
Alaska	3	1
Talk N Text	3	2
Selecta-RP	2	2
San Miguel	2	2
Sta. Lucia	2	2
Ginebra	2	3
FedEx	1	3
Purefoods	1	3
Shell	1	3

GAME TOMORROW
(Cuneta Astrodome)
7 p.m.—Purefoods vs Coca-Cola

BARANGAY Ginebra leaned on the explosive tandem of Jayjay Helterbrand and Mark

Caguioa to pull off a 74-63 upset victory over the Talk N Text Phone Pals last night in the PBA Samsung Commissioner's Cup.

Helterbrand unloaded 14 of his 16 points in the third period, while Caguioa added 19 markers as the undermanned Kings posted their second win in five outings before a delirious crowd at the Big Dome.

Franchise players Jun Limpot and Vergel Meneses were hobbled by injuries while import Silas Mills was sent home packing but it didn't hamper the Kings from dealing the Phone Pals their second straight defeat after starting the mid-sea-

son tourney with a 3-0 record.

In the second game, Sta. Lucia Realty shaded the Selecta-RP Team, 66-62, for a 2-2 slate. The Realtors tied their victims and the San Miguel Beermen in the middle of the standings.

Barangay Ginebra decided to replace Mills after the flamboyant import reportedly went into the officials' table and tried to field himself in without the consent of the coaching staff during the Kings' losing effort against the Coca-Cola Tigers, 70-65, on Thursday.

The Kings have tapped the services of former Golden State Warrior Chris Porter, a 6-foot-7 power forward out of Auburn University,

to replace Mills. Porter is set to arrive today.

With the absence of Mills leaving a huge dent on their offensive strategy, the Kings went to their local force, particularly Helterbrand and Caguioa, and obliged Ben Davis to work doubly hard.

The amazing efforts of the Kings also gifted Barangay Ginebra interim coach Cris Calilan a fitting birthday present.

Scores:

GINEBRA 74—Davis 25, Caguioa 19, Helterbrand 16, Walkvist 4, David 4, Magtulis 3, Tolomia 2, Ong 1.

TALK N TEXT 63—Honeycutt 18, Johnson 11, Telan 11, Demape 8, Lago 6, Fran 5, Crisano 2, Pablo 2.

Quarters: 15-17, 28-34, 55-49, 74-63.

THE COUNTRY'S bets to the 35th Junior World golf championships left for San Diego, California in three batches via Philippine Airlines recently in a bid to prepare early for the tourney set to start on July 16.

Foremost among the local contenders are Jayvie Agojo, who narrowly missed ending the country's victory drought in the 13-14 years division last year, and eight-year-

old Dottie Ardina.

Agojo will be competing in the 15-17 years class (Class A) while Ardina will still be playing in the 8 and under (Class E) category.

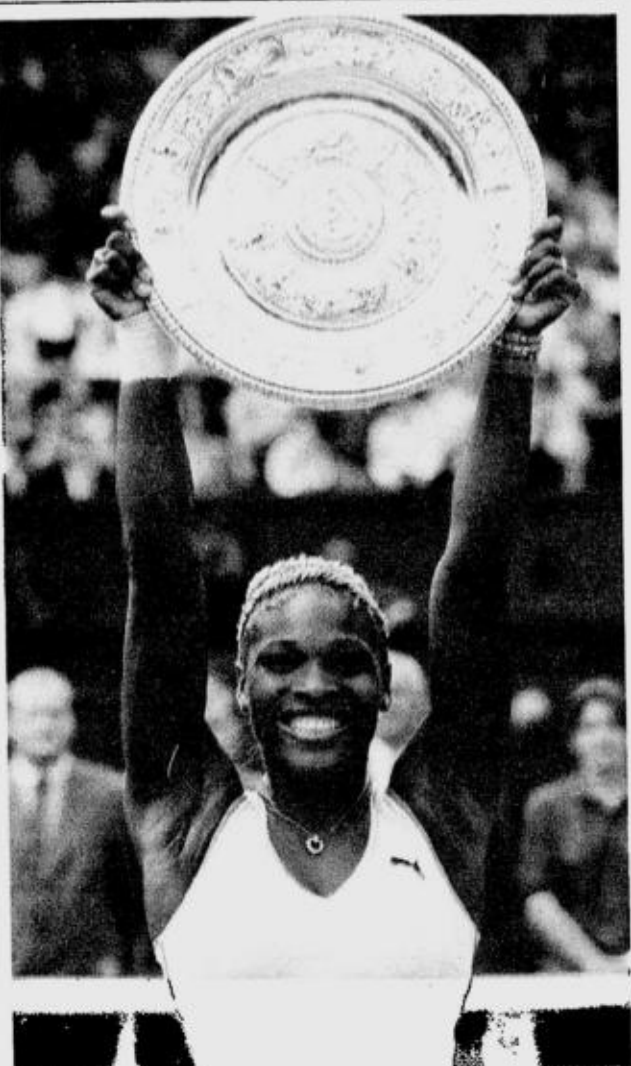
Agojo, Ardina and the other standouts of the Jungolf summer circuit were flown to Los Angeles by the country's flagcarrier, Philippine Airlines, as part of its support to youth development

through sport.

Leading the 24-player delegation also supported by adidas Taylor Made, Pisanti and Bayan Travel are Junior Golf Foundation of the Philippines president Merwin Mediana and other officials of the organization.

The contingent is composed of GT Laguatan, Keenan Ugarte, Agojo and Maritess Salivio (Class A);

Laurence Negrido, Justine Tambunting, Miko Alejandro, Gerie Leen Handog and Leticia de Villa (Class B); Miko Yee, Miguel Camitoc, Allan Guy, Katrina Briones and Mabel Salivio (Class C); Jobim Carlos, RG Medestomas, Mia Piccio and Maria Tala Exconde (Class D) and Ardina, Christina Potenciano, Raymund Gonzales and Miguel Tabuena. **Jong Arcano**



WIMBLEDON CHAMP

Serena Williams hoists the winner's trophy after her 7-6 (4), 6-3 victory over sister Venus Williams in the women's final of the Wimbledon tennis championships on Saturday. Story on A22. AP

PETRON GAS CASH DASH

They've hit the jackpot on the third draw.



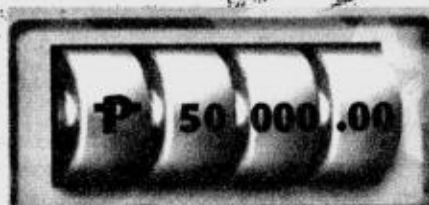
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Desistance lets criminals escape, says lawyers /A26

METRO

Editor Louie C. Camino



BAUTISTA

Policeman who rammed and beat up epileptic gets 3-month suspension

By Christian V. Esguerra

A POLICE colonel has escaped dismissal from service after he beat up a 58-year-old epileptic in Makati City eight years ago.

Instead of dismissing Supt. Mario Cruz from the service, the Regional Appellate Board of the National Police Commission suspended him for 90 days for grave misconduct.

The People's Law Enforcement Board of Makati had earlier ordered the dismissal of Cruz for beating up Victor Ocampo, a former Ateneo foot-

ball player, in Makati in January 1994.

"I'm tired, I'm very tired," Ocampo, now 66, told the INQUIRER. "I never thought (Cruz) would escape dismissal after what he did to me."

Ocampo was crossing Pasong Tamo Street in Makati when Cruz's car hit him eight years ago, the Napolcom decision showed.

But instead of helping the old man, Cruz—then a robust 45-year-old, 6-footer weighing about 200 pounds—punched and berated Ocampo, according to the decision.

Ocampo said Cruz, the son of a former police general, stopped harassing him only after two traffic officers approached them.

He said he thought he had won the case against Cruz after the PLEB ordered the officer's dismissal for grave misconduct.

"The said offense constitutes only slight physical injuries punishable by one to 30 days imprisonment under the Penal Code, or equivalent to the offense of less grave misconduct under Police Administrative Offenses," according to the Napolcom decision.

Fernando wades in

By Christian V. Esguerra

"HE'S A superman."

This was how Malabon Mayor Amado Vicencio described Metropolitan Manila Development Authority Chair Bayani Fernando, who waded yesterday in flooded streets in northern Metro Manila, particularly in the Caloocan-Malabon-Navotas-Valenzuela area.

"He wants to personally see the problem," Vicencio added. "He's really a man of action."

President Macapagal-Arroyo had transferred jurisdiction over flood-control in Metro Manila from the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) to the MMDA.

Two days of non-stop rain resulting in flooded streets became Fernando's acid test in solving the problem of flooding in Metro Manila.

Together with Caloocan Mayor Reynaldo Malonzo, Navotas Mayor Tobias Tiangco and Vicencio, the MMDA chair assessed the flood situation in northern Metro Manila.

Tiangco lauded Fernando for showing "real concern."

Fernando went to Valenzuela to check the 11 flooded barangays and the ongoing DPWH project on

MacArthur Highway, according to Emmanuel Carlos, the Valenzuela City mayor.

Carlos said he and Fernando would ask the DPWH to expedite the completion of the project to help improve traffic on the highway and to avoid worsening flooding.

Fernando said he and the mayors had agreed to review the national government's P3.9-billion flood-control project, which seeks to finally solve the perennial flood problem in Caloocan, Malabon, Navotas and Valenzuela.

Squatters and residents have been opposing the project, claiming it would only worsen flooding in their areas.

During his inspection yesterday, Fernando said he became all the more determined to rid Metro Manila of all obstructions, particularly sidewalk vendors, squatters, and garbage clogging the drainage system.

"The morale of residents is low right now, especially when they see all these obstructions clogging the streets whenever there's flood," Fernando said in Filipino.

"In other countries, flood is also a problem, but you don't see stalls, garbage, and other obstructions floating in the water."



NO WATER UNDER THE BRIDGE

MEMBERS of a homeless family seek shelter under the Del Pan Bridge in Manila, together with stranded pedestrians, as the rain continues to blast the metropolis. But this family is known to live under the bridge, rain or shine.

JESS YUSON

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Why Pacquiao may never become another Elorde

It may be too early, but it has come to the point when people have started asking if Manny Pacquiao, lone reigning Filipino world boxing champ, would be another Flash Elorde.

Of course, even the younger horde that had never seen or hardly heard of Elorde knows fully well that the name is synonymous to greatness.

Elorde, to those who would wonder, was undisputedly the greatest post-war Filipino boxer who, starting in the summer of 1960, reigned as world junior lightweight champ for seven years. But he carved out a legend not only with his sharp, mighty fists.

Elorde knew all too well how it was to be cold and hungry. He gave much of his care and attention to those in need.

The former bootblack from Cebu, who lost a bout to lung cancer early in 1985, was a humble and generous man who was genuinely admired and loved outside the boxing ring.

This is not to suggest that Pacquiao should aspire for

sainthood.

But, going by the previous feeds from the Pacquiao camp, it would appear that the fabulous southpaw from Gen. Santos City had to go through a bit of martyrdom before he finally acceded to defend against Jorge Eliecer Julio in the undercard of the Lennox Lewis-Mike Tyson world heavyweight championship fight last month.

Himself speaking, Pacquiao told reporters that he had to swallow his pride, he was on the verge of pulling out, after he was told on the eve of his last fight that the purse against Julio would be only \$70,000.

Please take note that in a previous fight, that ugly, foul-ridden clash with Agapito Sanchez that ended in a controversial draw, Pacquiao was already paid \$120,000.

His handlers reportedly succeeded in convincing Pacquiao that the enormous worldwide exposure he would get in the Lewis-Tyson card

BARE EYE

Recab Trinidad



could never be measured in dollars.

Pacquiao nodded meekly, then made short work of his opponent, a stylish veteran who had never been stopped previously.

But there and then, the IBF junior featherweight champ had obviously made a vow: no petty championship purses again.

Sorry to report this but, last heard of, Pacquiao was still enmeshed in a question of purses.

No need to reconfirm that he had had a sort of falling off with his manager, Rod Nazario.

Anyway, that minor misunderstanding had been straightened out, mainly after Pacquiao received a

rich, tantalizing offer from New York-based promoter Lou DiBella to defend in an HBO card. The offered purse: \$200,000.

DiBella also proposed to the Filipino champ three fights a year for a minimum of \$600,000 in the first, \$800,000 in the second and \$1 million in the third.

He was also promised a signing bonus of \$50,000, plus an additional \$50,000 over the next two years.

Pacquiao had appeared all sold to the lucrative proposal.

In the first place, his three-fight deal with promoter Murad Muhammad, which started off with that sensational title-clinching stoppage of Lehlo Ledwaba in June 2001, officially ended when Pacquiao stopped Julio in Memphis last month.

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Desistance lets criminals escape, say lawyers

By Christian V. Esguerra

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Pasay City policemen and 8 Pantranco security guards of responsibility in the boy's death.

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The affidavit of desistance of the Balalas came a few weeks after the family of slain private nurse Belma Abella had withdrawn the murder charge against Marybeth Lopez de Leon, wife of Jose Vicente Madrigal de Leon, a wealthy businesswoman from Ayala-Alabang village in Muntinlupa.

De Leon allegedly shot dead Abella during a confrontation in

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City prosecutors decided not to pursue the criminal case against De Leon after the husband and the live-in partner of the slain nurse issued affidavits of desistance.

"What right do relatives of the victims have to allow murderers to 'buy' the lives of the victims who can no longer be heard to protest?" De Vera asked in his statement.

He said the prosecution of criminals loses its deterrent effect because of the "insidious" issuance of affidavits of desistance.

"Let cases be dismissed after thorough investigation by state prosecutors for lack of evidence, but never because money-hungry relatives of victims conveniently desisted (from) the criminal prosecution," De Vera said.



DAGAT-DAGATAN Road in Tondo, Manila lives up to its name and becomes like a sea. But the "sea" also becomes a playground for the neighborhood's boys. JESS YUSON



FLOORED by the non-stop rain, young residents of the swamped parts of Sampaloc, Manila are given shelter at the Texson Elementary School. JESS YUSON

Young wife battered to death

By Agnes E. Donato

A 21-YEAR-OLD woman was killed after her live-in partner beat her up with a piece of wood in Quezon City on Saturday night.

Joanna Tampon, 21, of Sgt. Esguerra Street in Barangay South Triangle, Quezon City, sustained severe injuries in different parts of the body, according to investigators. She died while undergoing treatment at the East Avenue Medical Center, they added.

The suspect, John Infanto, 28, surrendered to the Central Police District Station 10 in Kamuning after learning that his live-in partner had died.

Investigation showed that the couple had an argument about 8 p.m. Saturday.

Infanto reportedly went home intoxicated and confronted his live-in partner about a former boyfriend of hers.

When their argument grew worse, Infanto beat up the woman and hit her with a length of wood, the investigators said.

Infanto fled after Tampon fell unconscious. Neighbors brought the woman to the hospital, where she died about 11:30 p.m., policemen said. Infanto is now detained at the CPD criminal investigation unit in Camp Karingal.

Suspended mayor the last to know

By Tina Santos

MALABON City Mayor Amado Vicencio on Saturday expressed surprise over a Sandiganbayan order suspending him for 90 days.

Vicencio said that as of Saturday, he and his lawyers had not received a copy of the suspension order and that they only learned about it only in newspapers. But he said he would petition the Supreme Court to stop the order.

He also questioned how news of the suspension leaked when he and his lawyers should have been the first to learn about it.

"I should be the one to ask you where you got such order because if there was any, we should be the first to know," Vicencio told reporters.

Vicencio and four other city hall officials were

charged with violation of Republic Act No. 3019, the Anti-Graft and Corrupt Practices Act.

Charged with the mayor were Lida Sarmiento, Pio Dadula, Councilor Lauro Borja and city treasurer Ernesto Pabustan, all members of the local prequalifications, bids and awards commitment (PBAC). Vicencio is chair of the PBAC.

Concilers Eddie Torres and Chiqui Roque-Villaroel accused Vicencio and the PBAC members of anomalously awarding the contract for the construction of the shelved P122-million city hall project in Barangay Catmon to the Serg-PMGT joint venture.

Torres and Villaroel said they had sufficient evidence against Vicencio and the other co-accused.

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According to the resolution, the Department of Interior and Local Government will implement the suspension order.

But lawyer Danilo Diaz, Malabon legal officer, said Vicencio's next move might be to question the legality of the order and to petition the Supreme Court to issue a temporary restraining order.

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Vice Mayor Jayjay Lumbao will be the acting mayor during Vicencio's suspension.

Stop importing used trucks, buses, says 'Bistek'

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QUEZON CITY Vice Mayor Herbert Bautista yesterday called for the immediate stop in the importation of used trucks and buses and vehicle parts and components.

"It is true that one of the root causes of air pollution in Metro Manila is worn-out engines and vehicles that can no longer efficiently burn fuel and therefore emit pollutants," explained Bautista, who is also a movie and TV comedian known as "Bistek," a character from one of his movies.

Bautista cited studies of automotive experts

who said that privately-owned vehicles such as cars, jeeps, vans, pick-ups and school buses can function well for only 10 to 15 years.

High-mileage or utility vehicles such as jeepneys and buses, as well as cargo trucks and haulers are good for only 8 to 12 years, while light vehicles such as taxis, limousines, motorcycles and tricycles have life expectancies of 8 to 12 years, he added.

The vice mayor said that according to mechanical engineers, vehicles are already smoke belchers even before they become this old.

He maintained that smoke belching could

only be solved by replacing old vehicles with new ones and by using unleaded gasoline and low-sulfur diesel.

"This is to be complemented by an efficient management system, the completion and eventual use of more circumferential and radial roads and the MRT and LRT network," Bautista said in a statement.

"There must also be realistic incentives for transport operators and other vehicle owners to shift to new units and engines," he said. "The incentives should include import tax deferment and soft loans from government banks."

Fire hits Sta. Ana warehouse as rain pounds city

WHILE many parts of Metro Manila were water-logged on Saturday due to the non-stop rain, a 20-minute fire broke out in a warehouse in Sta. Ana, Manila.

The blaze hit the 500-square-meter warehouse of lawant sheets at the back of

Bonifacio Motors along Embarcadero Street in Sta. Ana, according to Supt. Co Yee Co of the Sta. Ana Police Station. Despite the heavy rain, the fire began at 1:51 p.m., Co said.

Responding firefighters put the blaze under control about 2 p.m. They finally put it out

nine minutes later, said Co.

The Manila Fire Department said the warehouse fire reached only the second fire alarm.

Arson investigators were still trying to determine the cause of the fire and the cost of the damage.

Philip C. Tubeza

NBI agents seize fake brand bags

NATIONAL Bureau of Investigation agents confiscated half a million pesos worth of fake Jansport bags in a recent raid in Tondo, Manila.

The agents raided Bags Are Us Corp. at the Tutuban Center on C.M. Recto Avenue, which is owned and managed by Wilson P. Lee and Marcelino T. Lee, and Robelle's Bags and Accessories on Mata Street in Tondo, owned by Billy Belleza, according to NBI Acting Director Fermin Nasol. The stores were allegedly involved in the sale, manufacture and distribution of fake Jansport bags.

The agents confiscated hundreds of finished and unfinished fake Jansport bags, estimated to be worth P500,000, as well as sewing machines used to manufacture them.

The NBI conducted the raid after the counsels of Jansport Apparel Corp. and Zetitic, a market research firm, complained to the bureau and asked for assistance against the two establishments.

The NBI's Intellectual Property Rights Division headed by agent Rafael Ragos conducted test buys and surveillance to confirm the reports, and asked for a warrant of arrest from the Manila Regional Trial Court.

The owners of the raided establishments are facing charges of unfair competition, false designation of origin and false description and representation, the NBI said.

Leila Salaverria

Disaster awareness month

THE PHILIPPINE Institute of Volcanology and Seismology (Phivolcs), in observance of the National Disaster Consciousness Month (NDCM) this July, will hold an open exhibit at the Phivolcs lobby highlighting its programs, projects and activities.

A separate exhibit will be held on July 8-12 in connection with National Science and Technology Week (NSTW), at the Phivolcs main office on C.P. Garcia Avenue in UP Diliman, Quezon City.

Phivolcs technical personnel will visit some schools to give lectures on topics related to earthquake and volcanic hazards. A film showing will be available to organized student groups that may wish to visit the office this month.

For inquiries, please call the Geologic Disaster Awareness and Preparedness Division (GDAPD) at 927-4524 or 426-1468 local 28.

Why Pacquiao may never become another Elorde

It may be too early, but it has come to the point when people have started asking if Manny Pacquiao, lone reigning Filipino world boxing champ, would be another Flash Elorde.

Of course, even the younger horde that had never seen or hardly heard of Elorde knows fully well that the name is synonymous to greatness.

Elorde, to those who would wonder, was undisputedly the greatest post-war Filipino boxer who, starting in the summer of 1960, reigned as world junior lightweight champ for seven years. But he carved out a legend not only with his sharp, mighty fists. Elorde knew all too well how it was to be cold and hungry. He gave much of his care and attention to those in need.

The former bootblack from Cebu, who lost a bout to lung cancer early in 1985, was a humble and generous man who was genuinely admired and loved outside the boxing ring.

This is not to suggest that Pacquiao should aspire for

sainthood.

But, going by the previous feeds from the Pacquiao camp, it would appear that the fabulous southpaw from Gen. Santos City had to go through a bit of martyrdom before he finally acceded to defend against Jorge Eliecer Julio in the undercard of the Lennox Lewis-Mike Tyson world heavyweight championship fight last month.

Himself speaking, Pacquiao told reporters that he had to swallow his pride, he was on the verge of pulling out, after he was told on the eve of his last fight that the purse against Julio would be only \$70,000.

Please take note that in a previous fight, that ugly, foul-ridden clash with Agapito Sanchez that ended in a controversial draw, Pacquiao was already paid \$120,000.

His handlers reportedly succeeded in convincing Pacquiao that the enormous worldwide exposure he would get in the Lewis-Tyson card

BARE EYE

Recab Trinidad



could never be measured in dollars.

Pacquiao nodded meekly, then made short work of his opponent, a stylish veteran who had never been stopped previously.

But there and then, the IBF junior featherweight champ had obviously made a vow: no petty championship purses again.

Sorry to report this but, last heard of, Pacquiao was still enmeshed in a question of purses.

No need to reconfirm that he had had a sort of falling off with his manager, Rod Nazario.

Anyway, that minor misunderstanding had been straightened out, mainly after Pacquiao received a

rich, tantalizing offer from New York-based promoter Lou DiBella to defend in an HBO card. The offered purse: \$200,000.

DiBella also proposed to the Filipino champ three fights a year for a minimum of \$600,000 in the first, \$800,000 in the second and \$1 million in the third.

He was also promised a signing bonus of \$50,000, plus an additional \$50,000 over the next two years.

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ENTERTAINMENT

Editor Louie C. Camino

Zoren's secrets and my jewels

MY SINISTER sister **Boy Abunda** will be anchoring a new program, Monday to Friday at 5:30 p.m. on ABS-CBN (see related story on this page). The new show is "etc.", which stands for Express Balita, Tunay na Pangyayari, and Celebrities.

I'm very proud of Boy because his television personality continues to evolve. It must be a testament to his unique style of interviewing and his credibility in dealing with both political and show business personalities and controversies.

He'll be with **JC Gonzales** and **Angela Calina**, two young, fresh faces that ABS-CBN is developing.

Boy and I are also taking care of our health. We played tennis with brothers **Zoren** and **Kier Legaspi**, together with Coach **Noel** last Thursday. Our shoulders and arms are killing us, but we feel more energetic. We've sworn to play at least twice a week.

Our next session is on Tuesday, and we are determined to give **Venus** and **Serena Williams** a run for their money (if you'll dream, you may as well dream big).

During water breaks, Zoren shared with us a mouthful. But

because we, his students, happen to be irrepressible multi-media personalities, he kept reminding us that what he was sharing was strictly "off the record."

Oh well, I'm sure in time you'll be hearing on "The Buzz" his untold story about his love for **Carmina (Villaruel)**, their plans for the future, and what to expect because of the latest developments such as the recent annulment of the marriage of Carmina and **Rustom (Padilla)**. He promised us the exclusive and I know that he's a man of his word.

Zoren and Carmina gave an exclusive interview to Yes Magazine. I'm also featured there, together with **Joey Marquez** in a "He Said, She Said" type of treatment.

Actually, I gave limited statements but my manager **Deo Endrinal** gave a more detailed account. In most cases, it's much easier for people who genuinely care for you and who are in close contact with you to share more accurate information and impartial views.

I'd like to give my sincere thanks to writer **Anna Pingol** and Yes editor **Joanne Maglipon** for their fair narrative of events about Joey and me. I've

KRIS AND TELL

Kris Aquino



always enjoyed Yes because it sticks to the facts. Regardless of how controversial the issues may be, as a subject I've never felt exploited or abused by Yes, yet as a reader I don't feel shortchanged or subjected to celebrity puff pieces.

I'm often asked where I get the jewelry I wear on "The Buzz" and the earrings I wear on "Game KNB." People have been noticing that I've recently become more creative and adventurous with the jewelry I wear, and I've been wearing less of my normal diamond solitaire studs and more of the dangly, attention-getting earrings.

I used to avoid this latter type of jewelry because, during the late '80s and early '90s, I consistently wore huge earrings, mostly festooned with hearts. I've kept most of them as souvenirs, especially my Chanel and YSL earrings. Now, I'm again enamored of intricately de-

signed pieces. Call it my version of evolution.

My funky accessories, especially the big, crystal encrusted rings, come from Swatch Bijoux which I now endorse. But the real pieces I wear, the ones for awards nights and most of my earrings with diamonds and semi-precious stones, especially the dangling, chandelier-style ones, are specially designed for me by **Candy Dizon**, the daughter of **Jul Dizon**.

The great thing about Candy is that she's just about my age, and she designs with a youthful spirit. She's also able to reinvent the pieces I've been giving her.

For example, I had about five different tennis bracelets, all dating back to the late 1980s. Candy fashioned several necklaces and eight pairs of earrings out of them, updating them and making them wearable again.

Their store is located at Shangri-la Plaza, and from July 15 to 25 they'll be celebrating their anniversary with a special sale and afternoon jewelry shows featuring their latest designs. For more information, call them at **Jul B. Dizon Jewellery**, 634-7448 or 633-6553, or **Edsa Shangri-la Hotel**, 633-8888.

Boy Abunda 'etc.'

BOY Abunda, his energy, his intensity, his wit, etc. are too much for any one show to contain.

So, starting today, Boy, etc. will be seen in another show on ABS-CBN Channel 2, in addition to his Sunday show biz talk show "The Buzz" and his late Wednesday night "Private Conversation with Boy Abunda."

The new show is called, very fittingly, "etc."

With Boy involved, "etc." can stand for anything, such as, according to the network, "express balita, tunay na pangyayari, celebrities."

And much more. "etc." is all about entertainment, politics, human interest," he says and, after a beat, — adds, "kababalaghan."

Working with Boy on "etc." are **JC Gonzales** and **Angela Calina**, a fresh ABS-CBN find from Cebu.

"etc." takes over the Early Edition slot of 5:30-6 p.m., right before "TV



ABUNDA. Entertainment, politics and "kababalaghan."

Patrol," Monday to Friday.

Expect Boy Abunda's show to be brimming with brains and buffoonery, sassiness and surprises, etc.

Eventful first telecast

CHANNEL 2's newest soap, "Kay Tagal Kitang Hinintay," had a very eventful first telecast last July 1.

In only half an hour, viewers saw **Lorna Tolentino's** character being raped by **Ricky Davao**; Lorna giving birth without the help of a midwife; Ricky's mother finding out about the child and buying him from his weak-willed grandmother; Lorna barging into Ricky's mansion to spirit her son away; Ricky's father dying from a gunshot wound administered by a burglar; Lorna trying to escape by boat to Manila, and her being held by police at the wharf while the ship bearing her son sailed away to Manila!

The brisk and eventful series opening did away with the long backgrounders and *pasakalyes* that characterize the start of most TV soaps.

Also welcome is the series' inclusion of seldom-seen stars like **Perla Bautista** (as Lorna's mother) and **Snooky Serna** (as Ricky's sister). Along with Lorna and Ricky, they can be relied upon to give greater thespic power to the new soap series as it continues to unfold.

Aside from being brisk, the direction of **Olivia Lamasan** and **Laurenti Dyogi** was crisply dramatic—with the exception of the wharf scene at the end of the opening episode.

Lorna hesitated too much and too often as the ship bearing her son was about to sail away, so she came off as irritatingly indecisive. Thus, when she was separated from her son, viewers' sympathy wasn't with her.

As a whole, however, the opening episode came off well, with special mention going to Lorna and Snooky for their compelling initial portrayals. Snooky appears to be shaping up as one of the soap's *kontrabida* characters, so it'll be interesting to see her and Lorna squaring off in succeeding episodes.

Quiz-show errors
THANKS to Mr. **Loi Landicho** for his latest compilation of quiz-show errors:

Quizmaster: Sinong pirata ang kaaway ni Peter Pan?

Contestant: Dr. Hook!
(No, Captain Hook.)

Quizmaster: Ilang dozens meron sa

VIEWFINDER



Nestor U. Torre

pitong dosena?

Contestant: 841
(No, seven lang.)

Quizmaster: Ilang feet sa isang yard?

Contestant: 121
(No, tatlo lang!)

Quizmaster: Saang continent matatagpuan ang Great Wall of China?

Contestant: China!
(No, Asia.)

Quizmaster: Ano sa Filipino ang paragraph?
Contestant: Pangungusap!
(No, it's talata.)

Quizmaster: Ilan ang antennae ng isang karaniwang ipis?
Contestant: Apat!

(No, dalawa lang.)

Quizmaster: Kung ang airplane ay sasakyang panghimpapawid, ano naman ang canoe?

Contestant: Lupa!

(Sige nga, sumagwan ka? Darel—No, the correct answer is tubig.)

Movies on TV

FILMS on the Cinemax channel: Monday, July 8 at 6 a.m., "Young Sherlock Holmes." 4 p.m., "Tea for Two." Tuesday, July 9 at 4 p.m., "Two of Us." At 5:30 p.m., "Biloxi Blues." At 2 a.m., "Taxi Driver."

Wednesday, July 10 at 11:30 a.m., "The Out-of-Towners." At 6:45 p.m., "Cinema Secrets: Battle Zone." At 7:15 p.m., "Scrooged." At 3:15 a.m., "Reservoir Dogs."

Thursday, July 11 at 6:30 a.m., "Full Disclosure." At 1:55 a.m., "Two Mules for Sister Sara." Friday, July 12 at 9 p.m., "Sleepy Hollow." Saturday, July 13 at 3:45 p.m., "A House Di-

vided." Sunday, July 14 at 7 p.m., "Black Rain."

'Just Visiting'

IN the current film, "Just Visiting," a 12th-century French nobleman and his servant find themselves transported to modern-day Chicago.

The nobleman (**Jean Reno**) meets a young woman (**Christina Applegate**) who reminds him of his beloved Princess Rosalind, whom he mistakenly killed while under an evil spell. With her help, he tries to set things right.

With their timeless values of honor and courage, the "visiting" Frenchman wreaks hilarious havoc as they foil diabolical plots in both the 12th and the 21st centuries.

ROBINSONS MOVIE WORLD

HOME 97.9 RADIO

Invite you to the Advance Screening of



ROBINSONS MOVIE WORLD, ROBINSONS GALLERIA * JULY 8 * 6:30 PM
OPENS JULY 10 AT THEATERS EVERYWHERE



MTRCB PG-13 Children below 13 yrs. old will only be allowed if accompanied by a parent or adult

Angelina Jolie Edward Burns

What if you got a chance to discover who you really are?

Life or Something Like it

NOW SHOWING

For screening times, call 729-7777.
Schedules are subject to change without prior notice.

AYALA CINEMAS NOW SHOWING

G1 GLORIETTA 1	G4 GLORIETTA 4	GB1 GREENBELT 1	GB3 GREENBELT 3	ATC ALABANG TOWN CENTER
1 BAD COMPANY	1 LIFE OR SOMETHING...	1 IRIS	LIFE OR SOMETHING... 11:30, 2:40, 4:50, 7:00, 9:10, 11:20	1 MINORITY REPORT
2 SLACKERS	2 BAD COMPANY	2 CLOSED FOR RENOVATION	2 MINORITY REPORT 11:20, 2:20, 5:20, 8:20, 11:20	2 BAD COMPANY
3 FOREVERMORE	4 SCOOBY DOO	3 AMELIE	3 JUST VISITING 11:20, 1:20, 3:20, 5:20, 7:20, 9:20, 11:20	3 LIFE OR SOMETHING...
4 MINORITY REPORT	5 JUST VISITING	MARTIN NEVERA BACKSTAGE 9 PM - JULY 5 & 6	4 BAD COMPANY 10:50, 1:20, 3:50, 6:20, 8:50, 11:20	4 SCOOBY DOO
	6 LEGEND OF THE TITANIC		5 SUM OF ALL FEARS 10:50, 1:20, 3:50, 6:20, 8:50, 11:20	5 JUST VISITING

MMTA

METRO MANILA THEATERS ASSOCIATION

MOVIE GUIDE

NOW SHOWING

EMAIL: mmta@asia.com

Filinvest

FESTIVAL CINEMA

(Muntinlupa) tel 850.3571 or 72

- SLACKERS
- MINORITY REPORT
- THE SUM OF ALL FEARS
- LIFE OR SOMETHING LIKE IT
- JUST VISITING
- MINORITY REPORT
- BAD COMPANY
- FOREVERMORE
- LEGEND OF TITANIC
- SCOOBY DOO

GOTESCO CINEMA

Gotesco City
(Manila) tel 734.8588

- FOREVERMORE
- RESERVE
- KATAWAN MO LANGIT KO
- JUST VISITING
- SLACKERS
- MINORITY REPORT
- BAD COMPANY
- LIFE OR SOMETHING...

Gotesco Caloocan
tel 362.3508

- KATAWAN MO LANGIT KO

Gotesco Grand Central
(Caloocan) tel 364.3781

- FOREVERMORE
- KATAWAN MO LANGIT KO
- FOREVERMORE
- BAD COMPANY
- JUST VISITING
- LIFE OR SOMETHING...
- MINORITY REPORT
- SLACKERS
- TAMPI SAW

Gotesco Commonwealth
tel 951.0083

- RESERVE
- RESERVE
- RESERVE
- KATAWAN MO LANGIT KO
- LIFE OR SOMETHING...
- FOREVERMORE
- JUST VISITING
- BAD COMPANY

Gotesco Ortigas
tel 656.6795

- FOREVERMORE
- BAD COMPANY
- LIFE OR SOMETHING...
- KATAWAN MO LANGIT KO
- MINORITY REPORT

Universal
(Manila) tel 733.2470

- KATAWAN MO LANGIT KO

Sampaguita
(Cubao) tel 911.7888

- KATAWAN MO LANGIT KO

Dillon
(Manila) tel 734.7724

- TEENAGE SEDUCTION
- TAMPI SAW

Mandaluyong
tel 533.3851 / 533.3856

- FOREVERMORE
- BAD COMPANY
- MINORITY REPORT

Prima
(Pasig) tel 641.1215

-

Isetann Cinerama Complex Recto
SUPER CINERAMA
tel 733.4238

- MINORITY REPORT
- KATAWAN MO LANGIT KO
- RESERVE
- FOREVERMORE
- LIFE OR SOMETHING...

New Divisoria Mall
DIVISORIA CINEMA
tel 244.4619

-
-
-
-
-
-

FRC Cinema
Talaba Bacoor Cavite

- RESERVE
- RESERVE

Berma
TEL. 879.2030 / 879.2029

- TAMPI SAW
- MINORITY REPORT

CitiMall
(Parañaque) tel 820.7269

-
-

Spring
(Libertad, Pasay City) tel 851.7864

- KATAWAN MO LANGIT KO
- DARK DANGER

Sunshine
(FTI, Taguig) tel 838.4301 loc. 3376

- BAD COMPANY
- FOREVERMORE
- TAMPI SAW
- KATAWAN MO LANGIT KO

Cinema 2000 Target Mall
(Sta. Rosa Laguna)
tel (049) 534.2185 / 534.2198

- FOREVERMORE
- FOREVERMORE
- BAD COMPANY

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7383

- BAD COMPANY
- FOREVERMORE
- MINORITY REPORT
- LIFE OR SOMETHING...

Cinema 2000 Pavilion Mall
(Bihar) tel (049) 411.1146

- FOREVERMORE
- BAD COMPANY
- MINORITY REPORT
- LIFE OR SOMETHING...

Cinema 2000 Cinemagix
(Urdaneta) tel (075) 568.6771

- A WALK TO REMEMBER
- FOREVERMORE
- MINORITY REPORT

Cinema 2000 MetroTown
(Tarlac) tel (045) 982.1729

- FOREVERMORE
- DRAGONFLY
- A WALK TO REMEMBER
- MINORITY REPORT

Lianas Cinema
(Alabang) tel 850.1276

- BAD COMPANY
- TAMPI SAW
- KATAWAN MO LANGIT KO
- RESERVE

Lianas MovieCity
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7202

- MINORITY REPORT
- FOREVERMORE
- LIFE OR SOMETHING...
- TAMPI SAW
- BAD COMPANY

Olivarez Tri-Cinema
(Bihar) tel (049) 511.8883

- FOREVERMORE
- TAMPI SAW
- MINORITY REPORT

Olivarez Los Baños
tel (049) 249.2558

- MINORITY REPORT
- FOREVERMORE
- TAMPI SAW

Olivarez Tagaytay
tel (046) 413.0311

-

Morales Cinema
(Bihar) tel (049) 511.9736

-
-
-

Cabuyao
(Laguna City) tel (049) 531.4808

- TAMPI SAW
- FOREVERMORE

Fourstep
(Cavite) tel (046) 416.2365

-

Emperor
(Rosario Cavite) tel (046) 458.1857

- SELDA
- FOREVERMORE
- SCOOBY DOO

Fiesta World Mall
(Lipa) tel (043) 981.0790

- MINORITY REPORT
- MURDER BY NUMBERS
- 40 DAYS & 40 NIGHTS
- FOREVERMORE

Jade Cinema
(Angeles City) tel (045) 887.5001 to 03

- BAD COMPANY
- A WALK TO REMEMBER
- MINORITY REPORT
- 40 DAYS & 40 NIGHTS

SM CINEMA

SM Dial-A-Movie Tel. 633-9999

NOW SHOWING

SM CITY BACOR
4173888

- SLACKERS
- LIFE OR SOMETHING...
- MINORITY REPORT
- JUST VISITING
- BAD COMPANY
- FOREVERMORE
- KATAWAN MO...
- SUM OF ALL FEARS

SM SOUTHMALL
608888

- LEGEND OF TITANIC
- LIFE OR SOMETHING...
- BAD COMPANY
- JUST VISITING
- SLACKERS
- SUM OF ALL FEARS
- FOREVERMORE
- MINORITY REPORT
- SCOOBY DOO
- KATAWAN MO...

SM CENTERPOINT
7148522-7101410

- FOREVERMORE
- JUST VISITING
- BAD COMPANY
- LEGEND OF TITANIC
- MINORITY REPORT
- KATAWAN MO...
- SUM OF ALL FEARS
- SCOOBY DOO
- LIFE OR SOMETHING...
- SLACKERS

SM CITY FAIRVIEW
9350749

- LIFE OR SOMETHING...
- JUST VISITING
- MAGKAPATID
- BAD COMPANY
- SCOOBY DOO
- FOREVERMORE
- MINORITY REPORT
- THE SUM OF ALL FEARS
- A WALK TO REMEMBER
- TAMPI SAW
- SLACKERS
- KATAWAN MO...

SM CITY ILOILO
3209422

- MURDER BY NUMBERS
- CLOSED
- CROSSROADS
- FOREVERMORE
- DISKARTE
- MINORITY REPORT
- CLOSED
- RESIDENT EVIL

SM CITY PAMPANGA
7128015

- MINORITY REPORT
- MURDER BY NUMBERS
- BAD COMPANY
- A WALK TO REMEMBER
- SCOOBY DOO
- FOREVERMORE

SM CITY MANILA
5239240

- JUST VISITING
- MINORITY REPORT
- SUM OF ALL FEARS
- BAD COMPANY
- LIFE OR SOMETHING...
- MINORITY REPORT
- SLACKERS
- KATAWAN MO...
- FOREVERMORE
- LEGEND OF TITANIC
- A WALK TO REMEMBER
- SCOOBY DOO

SM MEGAMALL
6331901 • 8329401

- MINORITY REPORT
- JUST VISITING
- MINORITY REPORT
- SUM OF ALL FEARS
- SCOOBY DOO
- SLACKERS
- LEGEND OF TITANIC
- LIFE OR SOMETHING...
- FOREVERMORE
- BAD COMPANY
- KATAWAN MO...
- A WALK TO REMEMBER

SM CITY NORTH EDSA
9295452

- JUST VISITING
- SUM OF ALL FEARS
- KATAWAN MO...
- FOREVERMORE
- LIFE OR SOMETHING...
- SCOOBY DOO
- MINORITY REPORT
- BAD COMPANY
- CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
- CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
- CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
- CLOSED FOR RENOVATION

SM CITY CAGAYAN DE ORO

- SOON TO OPEN!
4 NEW
STATE-OF-THE-ART
VISION & SOUND

MOVIEWORLD CINEMAS

@ Robinsons Malls

NOW SHOWING

Galleria
632-9115-16
633-7641 loc. 279

- MINORITY REPORT
- MINORITY REPORT
- JUST VISITING
- LIFE OR SOMETHING LIKE IT
- BAD COMPANY
- THE SUM OF ALL FEARS
- FOREVERMORE
- SLACKERS
- TITANIC
- SCOOBY DOO

Ermita
536-7809-12

- BAD COMPANY
- TITANIC
- SLACKERS
- LIFE OR SOMETHING LIKE IT
- FOREVERMORE
- JUST VISITING
- MINORITY REPORT

Metro East -
Marcos Hwy 682-8193 / 8280

- SLACKERS
- BAD COMPANY
- JUST VISITING
- FOREVERMORE
- THE SUM OF ALL FEARS
- LIFE OR SOMETHING LIKE IT
- MINORITY REPORT
- SCOOBY DOO

Novaliches
935-3279-30

- MINORITY REPORT
- BAD COMPANY
- LIFE OR SOMETHING LIKE IT
- SCOOBY DOO
- FOREVERMORE
- THE SUM OF ALL FEARS
- JUST VISITING
- SLACKERS

Imus
471-8188 / 875-3838

- MINORITY REPORT
- KATAWAN MO...
- JUST VISITING
- BAD COMPANY
- FOREVERMORE
- LIFE OR SOMETHING LIKE IT

Bacolod
441-0453 / 0459

- MINORITY REPORT
- IN THE BEDROOM
- FOREVERMORE
- MONSTER'S BALL
- I THINK I'M IN LOVE
- MAMASAN

Iloilo
336-8077-78

- RESIDENT EVIL
- DISKARTE
- MURDER BY NUMBERS
- MINORITY REPORT
- CROSSROADS
- FOREVERMORE

Star Mills
875-1927
San Fernando, Pamp. 961-5318 / 5270

- BAD COMPANY
- A WALK TO REMEMBER
- MURDER BY NUMBERS
- FOREVERMORE
- MINORITY REPORT
- MINORITY REPORT

malabon citisquare
soon to open.

how-2-reach-us:
email: h2c@netasia-mnl.net
<http://www.robinsonsmovieworld.com>
call-a-movie 536-7812

MOVIES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE.

ADVANCED SCREENING THX DOLBY DTS SDDS

PREMIERE CINEMA NOW SHOWING

BAD COMPANY

CMG INTERNATIONAL

Movie Guide: This movie is rated R. Some material may be inappropriate for children under 17. For more information, call 525-2838 or 1-800-555-1234.

Game show for texters premieres on GMA 7

FROM the network that gave you the first text-based interactive game show "Texters 5," comes "Ready Txt Go!," an exciting game show to hit Philippine TV.

Hosted by GMA 7's resident comedian Michael V., "Ready Txt Go!" will definitely have contestants and viewers alike bursting into laughter—the way only the inimitable Bitoy can make them—as contestants showcase their texting skills using their feet to key-in answers on the studio's gigantic cell phone.

Globe subscribers may send their entries to 2344 while Smart and Talk N' Text subscribers may send their entries to 4627.

Viewers may join as studio contestants, text home partners

or participate in the interactive game.

Aside from the actual game show, viewers may join "Swertext," the interactive game where they text-in a four-letter combination of their choice. If they have the winning combination, they automatically win the pot. With every episode, the pot gets bigger and bigger.

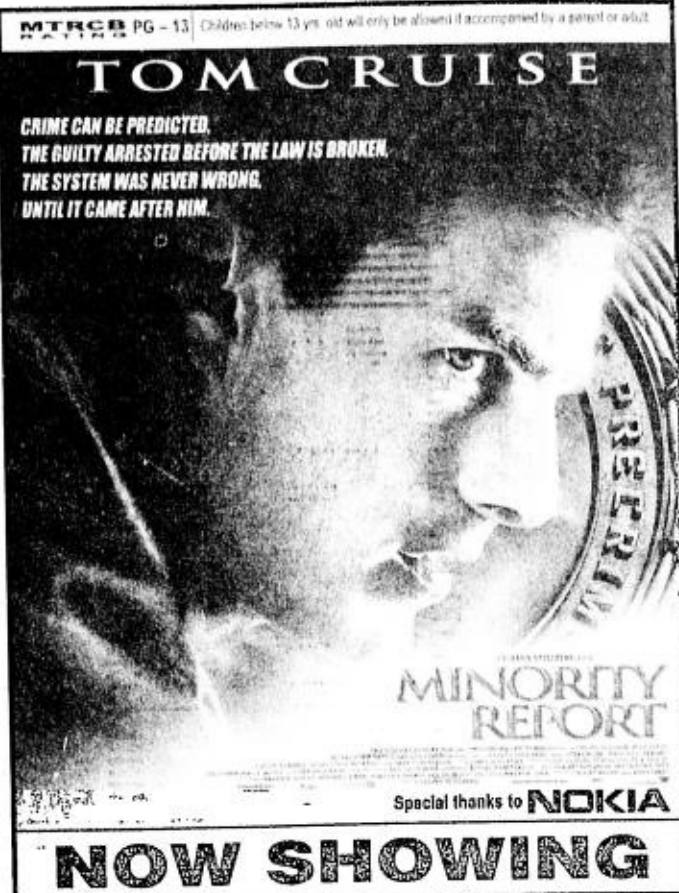
Meanwhile, studio contestants have a chance to win over a million pesos in the jackpot round. The pot automatically increases by P100,000 every episode until someone hits the jackpot.

"Ready Txt Go!" airs weekdays starting tonight after the early evening newscast, "Saksi" on GMA 7.

MTRCB PG-13 Children below 13 yrs. old will only be allowed if accompanied by a parent or adult

TOM CRUISE

CRIME CAN BE PREDICTED.
THE GUILTY ARRESTED BEFORE THE LAW IS BROKEN.
THE SYSTEM WAS NEVER WRONG.
UNTIL IT CAME AFTER HIM.



MINORITY REPORT

Special thanks to NOKIA

NOW SHOWING

THEATRE MALL GREENHILLS
a landmark reinvented!

1 MINORITY REPORT
11:00, 1:45, 4:30, 7:15, 10:00 P 13

2 BAD COMPANY
12:10, 2:35, 5:00, 7:25, 9:50 P 13

All Reserved Seating: P120.00
TICKET PRICES & SCREENING TIME SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE
GREENHILLS SHOPPING CENTER, ORTIGAS AVENUE, GREENHILLS, SAN JUAN, METRO MANILA • 17248H

July 12 & 13 July 10, 2002 FALSETTOS (New Voice Company) 8:30 PM
"LARGER THAN LIFE" (Phillip Lazaro) 9:00 PM
FOR INQUIRIES & RESERVATION, PLS. CALL: 721-8726 OR 721-0835

Retrospect sings at Hotel Inter-Con

RETROSPECT dishes out music from the '70s plus new funky tunes from their latest album, "The Love Bug," on July 13, Saturday, 9:30 p.m. at Hotel Inter-Continental's Le Boulevardier music lounge.

Enjoy drink-all-you-can draft beer, a free serving of pica-pica and live band performances during happy hours from Mondays to Saturdays, 6 to 8:30 p.m.

Other happy hour treats include 50 percent off on standard house drinks and 25 percent off on premium brands.

For more information, call 815-9711 local 261-263.

Discover ArtFilm GREENBELT 1
DARING, AWARD-WINNING, EXTRAORDINARY

NOW SHOWING

IRIS: A Memoir of Iris Murdoch, July 3-9
Judi Dench, Jim Broadbent & Kate Winslet
Perhaps there is no greater treasure in life more cherished or poignant than enduring love. For British novelist Iris Murdoch and famed literary critic John Bayley, theirs is a love that will last them both of their lifetimes.

Best Supporting Actor (Broadbent), 74th Annual Academy Awards; Best Actress (Dench), 2001 British Academy Film Awards; Best Supporting Actress (Winslet), 2001 L.A. Film Critics Association
MTRCB Rating: Restricted 18 (R)
COMING SOON
The King is Alive, July 10-16

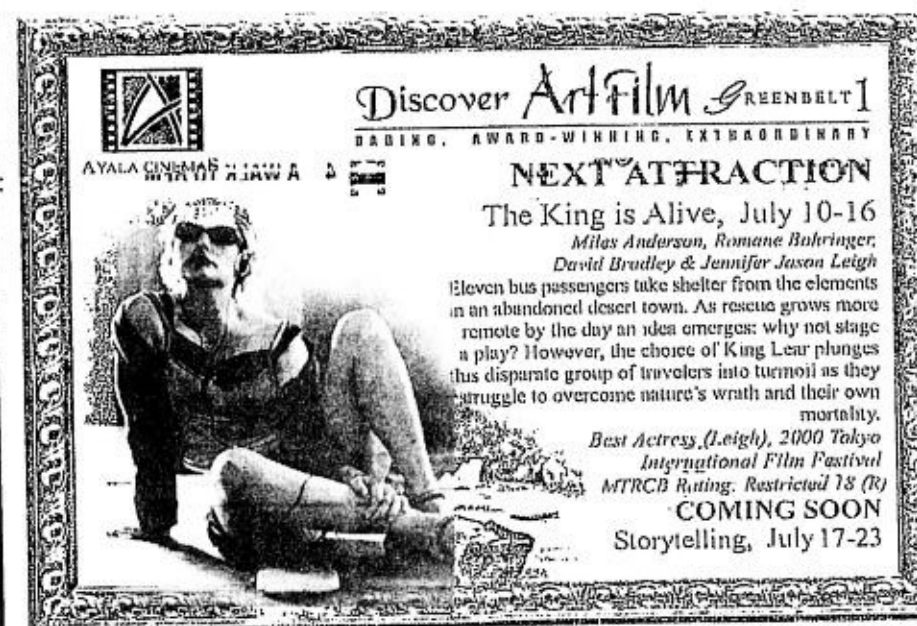


Discover ArtFilm GREENBELT 1
DARING, AWARD-WINNING, EXTRAORDINARY

NEXT ATTRACTION

The King is Alive, July 10-16
Milos Anderson, Romane Bohringer, David Bradley & Jennifer Jason Leigh
Eleven bus passengers take shelter from the elements in an abandoned desert town. As rescue grows more remote by the day an idea emerges: why not stage a play? However, the choice of King Lear plunges this disparate group of travelers into turmoil as they struggle to overcome nature's wrath and their own mortality.

Best Actress (Leigh), 2000 Tokyo International Film Festival
MTRCB Rating: Restricted 18 (R)
COMING SOON
Storytelling, July 17-23



MTRCB RATING > PG 13 Children below 13 years old will only be allowed if accompanied by a parent or adult

ASHLEY JUDD
MORGAN FREEMAN



EVERYTHING YOU TRUST.
EVERYTHING YOU KNOW.

MAY BE A LIE.

HIGH CRIMES

OPENS JULY 10!

See it first!

SM CINEMA

ADVANCE SCREENING



ALL ABOUT THE BENJAMINS

SUBJECT TO MTRCB RATING

Invitational DWTM Screening on
July 8, 2002 • 7:30 pm
SM Megamall Cinema 10

Regular showing on July 10 at the SM CINEMAS.

OPEN JULY 10!

MTRCB PG-13 Children below 13 yrs. old will only be allowed if accompanied by a parent or adult

SAVING THE WORLD BEFORE BEDTIME!



BUGGERCUP
BLOSSOM
BUBBLES

THE POWERPUFF GIRLS MOVIE

SHADON NETWORK
www.powerpuffgirls.com
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THEATER MOVIE GUIDE

ARANETA CENTER THEATERS 911-3101

ALI MALL CINEPLEX-1	FOREVERMORE
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-2	SUM OF ALL FEARS
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-3 (DOLBY)	MINORITY REPORT
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-4 (DOLBY)	BAD COMPANY
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-5 (DTS)	JUST VISITING
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-6 (DOLBY)	LIFE OR SOMETHING...
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-7 (DOLBY)	SLACKERS
FARMERS PLAZA-1 (DOLBY)	KATAWAN MO LANGIT KO
FARMERS PLAZA-2 (DOLBY)	MINORITY REPORT
FIESTA CARNIVAL	
NEW FRONTIER	

MANILA

EASTERN	
MAXIM	CLOSED
MIRAMAR	MASARAP ANG BAWAL / SALSA
ODEON	MINORITY REPORT
ODEON-2	DISKARTE
ROBEN	KATAWAN MO LANGIT KO
TANDEM-1	MAMASAN
TANDEM-2	MONSTER'S BALL
TIMES	COLLATERAL DAMAGE / MIMIC-2

QUEZON CITY

ACT-1	SENSUAL ISLAND
ACT-2	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
ACT-3	CLOSED
ACT-4	CLOSED
CORONET-2	ORIGINAL SIN
QUEZON-1	KATAWAN MO LANGIT KO
REMAR	KATAWAN MO LANGIT KO
REMAR-2	TAMPI SAW

NOVA MALL - NOVALICHES CINEMA

A	FOREVERMORE
B	KATAWAN MO LANGIT KO
C	

MANDALUYONG CITY

SHANGRI-LA PLAZA MALL	635-20-79 / 633-78-51 TO 70
CINEMA-1	MINORITY REPORT
CINEMA-2	BAD COMPANY

CAINTA RIZAL

STA. LUCIA EAST (581-5401 TO 19)	
CINEMA-1	DISKARTE
CINEMA-2	TAMPI SAW
CINEMA-3	FOREVERMORE
CINEMA-4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	MINORITY REPORT
CINEMA-5 (DTS)	SCOOBY DOO
CINEMA-6	SLACKERS
CINEMA-7	THE SUM OF ALL FEARS
CINEMA-8	KATAWAN MO LANGIT KO
CINEMA-9 (DTS)	MINORITY REPORT
CINEMA-10 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	LIFE OR SOMETHING...
CINEMA-11 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	JUST VISITING
CINEMA-12	BAD COMPANY
CINEMA-14	LEGEND OF THE TITANIC
CINEMA-15	FOREVERMORE

LORES

CINEMA-2	CLOSED
CINEMA-3	CLOSED

POWER PLANT CINEMA

CINEMA-1	JUST VISITING
CINEMA-2	LIFE OR SOMETHING LIKE IT
CINEMA-3	SUM OF ALL FEARS
CINEMA-4	BAD COMPANY
CINEMA-5	SCOOBY DOO
CINEMA-6	MINORITY REPORT

UNIWIDE METROMALL

(LAS PINAS)	
CINEMA-1	
CINEMA-2	
CINEMA-4	

UNIWIDE COASTAL MALL

(PANAPOUE)	
CINEMA-1	ALIPIN NG TUKSO
CINEMA-2	THE OTHER SIDE OF LOVE
CINEMA-4	ALAMID

Nestlé

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Almusal

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20 winners of
P1 MILLION
each

Thirty
P 100,000 each

Fifty
P 50,000 each

Seventy five
P 20,000 each

One hundred
P 10,000 each



HOW TO JOIN:

1. Write your name, address, phone no., signature, and the promo title, "MAG-NESTLÉ ALMUSAL...GISING MILYONARYO," on the label, foil, or boxtop of any of the participating Nestlé products below. Entries should be clean and at least 3/4 of its original size.

- MILO
- NIDO (Fortified, Prebio, Calci-N, Full Cream)
- BEAR BRAND
- NESLAC
- NESTLÉ CALCIUM PLUS
- NESCAFÉ (Classic, 3-in-1, Frothé, Gold, Decaf)
- COFFEEMATE
- MAGGI (Rich Mami Noodles, Milky Noodles, Spaghetti, Cup-Soup Noodles, Pancit Canton, Flavor-It, Noodle Buddies, Savor)
- NESTLÉ BREAKFAST CEREALS (Koko Krunch, Cornflakes, Trix, Fruitina, Honey Stars, MILO Balls, Banana Nut Clusters, Choco Flakes, Honey Gold, Almond Clusters)
- Nestlé Yogurt
- Nestlé Taho
- Nestlé
- Nestlé Lemonade
- Nestlé Pure Life
- Nesvita
- Nestlé Carelac
- Nestlé Rice Meals
- Carnation Evap and Condensed
- Carnation Non-Fat
- Libby's Condensed
- Alpine Evap
- Milkmaid
- Nestlé Chocolate Milk Drink
- Nestlé Premium Milk
- RTD (Bear Brand Sterilized, MILO RTD)
- Nestlé Fresh Milk
- Nestlé Low Fat Milk

3. Entries received after cut-off date and non-winning entries will qualify for the succeeding draws including the grand draw.

4. A consumer may only win once in every draw. Should a consumer's name be drawn twice during the specific draw, the prize with the bigger value will be awarded.

5. Preliminary draws will be held in six (6) cities to cover the following areas:

• Greater Manila Area (GMA) • Cebu • Bacolod • Davao • Naga • Cabanatuan

Draw Dates	Deadline of Entries	No. of Winners	Prize
1st Preliminary Draw - July 26	July 22	8 each in 6 areas, 36 in GMA	P 100,000.00
2nd Preliminary Draw - August 9	July 29	6 each in 6 areas, 27 in GMA	P 20,000.00
3rd Preliminary Draw - August 23	August 19	4 each in 6 areas, 18 in GMA	P 50,000.00
4th Preliminary Draw			
September 7 - Manila	September 2, 2002	14 Winners	P 100,000.00
September 8 - Cebu	September 2, 2002	2 Winners	P 100,000.00
		6 Winners	21-inch Sony TV
		4 Winners	7-cu.ft. National Refrigerator
September 14 - Cabanatuan	September 9, 2002	10 Winners	21-inch Sony TV
		10 Winners	7-cu.ft. National Refrigerator
September 15 - Davao	September 9, 2002	4 Winners	P 100,000.00
		10 Winners	21-inch Sony TV
		10 Winners	7-cu.ft. National Refrigerator

Draw Dates	Deadline of Entries	No. of Winners	Prize
September 21 - Naga	September 16, 2002	4 Winners	P 100,000.00
		10 Winners	21-inch Sony TV
		10 Winners	7-cu.ft. National Refrigerator
September 22 - Bacolod	September 16, 2002	2 Winners	P 100,000.00
		5 Winners	21-inch Sony TV
		5 Winners	7-cu.ft. National Refrigerator

6. The Grand Draw will be held on October 12, 2002 in Magandang Tanghal Bayan (MTB).

A total of 20 winners will win P 1,000,000.00 each

GMA 8 winners Visayas 3 winners
North Luzon 3 winners Mindanao 3 winners
South Luzon 3 winners

7. Deadline of entries is on September 30, 2002 at 4:00 p.m.

8. All prizes are tax-free.

9. The draws will be supervised by an authorized representative from the Bureau of Food and Drugs (BFAD).

10. Employees of Nestlé Philippines, Inc., its advertising and promotional agencies, packaging suppliers, service contractors, relatives up to the second degree of consanguinity and affinity are automatically disqualified from the promotion.

11. Promo period is from July 1 to October 12, 2002 at 4:00 p.m.

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MVP camp draws up plan to keep PLDT

By Doris C. Dumlaog

PHILIPPINE Long Distance Telephone Co. president Manuel V. Pangilinan and chair Antonio "Tonyboy" Cojuangco have drawn up a \$600-million strategy to take over the local telecommunication and property interests of the Salims' First Pacific Co. Ltd. without engaging in a costly bidding war with the Gokongweis.

The goal is to block the delivery of shares equivalent to 24.47 percent of PLDT and 50.4 percent of Bonifacio Land Co.—earlier committed by First Pacific to a \$925-million joint venture where the Gokongwei group will have a 67-percent stake—and then leaving the Salims "without any choice" but to sell out to their group instead, an INQUIRER source said on Friday.

While the Pangilinan group has dropped plans to submit a higher bid to block the hostile takeover attempt, it was confident that other measures were sufficient to



PANGILINAN

stall the deal.

The source said the game plan was to buy time to force the First Pacific-Gokongwei tandem to back out and for Pangilinan's group to take over under its own terms.

Part of the strategy is to put up a \$120-million consortium that will assume the debt owed by BLC parent firm Metro Pacific Corp.



COJUANGCO

(MPC) to First Pacific through Larouge BV, thereby settling the \$107-million principal amount plus repayment of interest and other expenses.

The loan takeover seeks to prevent the foreclosure by First Pacific of the 50.4-percent BLC stake used as collateral for the \$107-million loan.

"The \$120-million payment

will set free the BLC shares from First Pacific. Gokongwei has no more shares to buy when the debts are paid," the source explained.

The Pangilinan group believed that the BLC loan takeover would spoil the Gokongwei group's all-or-nothing bid, presuming that the Gokongweis would find the PLDT takeover at a hefty price of P1,140 per share unpalatable if detached from the undervalued BLC component, the source explained.

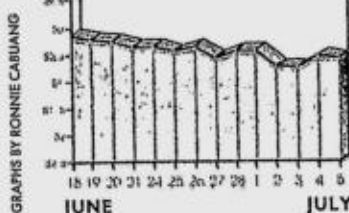
"MVP will stall the First Pacific-Gokongwei deal so that the Salims will negotiate with them. He knows the First Pacific cash flow and knows the Salims' mindset," the source said.

"The Salims have no choice because the longer the First Pacific-Gokongwei deal is stalled, First Pacific suffers because it has to pay maturing debts," the source explained.

"MVP and Cojuangco won't MVP/B4

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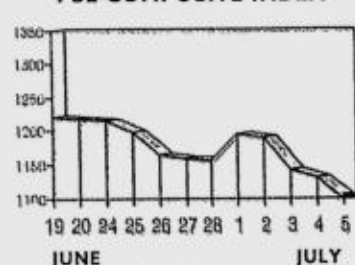
Stocks seen to weaken

LOCAL stocks are still seen to continue groping for the bottom this week as investors await fresh incentives that can offset the wave of negative news that flooded the market last week.

Analysts said the market's bias was still on the downside

STOCKS/B4

PSE COMPOSITE INDEX



(See stock market report on Page B4)

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WTO COMMITMENT

Gov't urged to defer tariff cuts

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

LOCAL manufacturing industries are asking the government to retract a commitment it made to the World Trade Organization during the Ramos administration to bring down tariffs to a uniform 5 percent within the next

18 months.

An INQUIRER source said manufacturing industries felt that the government was not compelled to live up to its promise of an across-the-board tariff cut on all goods except sensitive products because the economy did not track the Ramos administration's

rosy growth projections in the 1990s.

The Ramos administration did not foresee the Asian financial contagion in 1997 whose ill effects have hobbled the economy over the last five years.

Most industries are currently saddled with debt, cash flow problems, feeble consumer de-

mand and escalating cost of production. "They are worried that opening 'up' the economy to a deluge of imports by 2004 would wipe out a number of manufacturing concerns in the country."

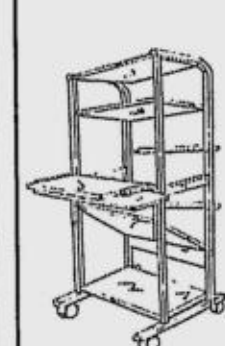
The source said manufacturing industries were open to the liberalization of trade under the Asean Free Trade Area (zero- to 5-percent duty by next year) because they could compete with other manufacturers in the region but not with non-Asean countries.

Aside from protecting domestic industries, the Macapagal administration was not too keen on lowering duties by 2004 in view of the government budget deficit woes. The budget shortfall

swelled to P107.54 billion in the first five months this year or 83 percent of its P130-billion deficit target this year. The government is aiming to close the budget gap by 2006.

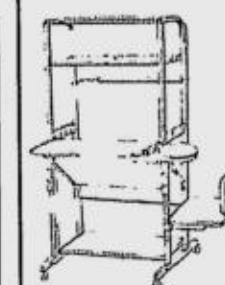
The National Economic and Development Authority is opposing plans to defer the scheduled reduction in most favored nation rates to a uniform 5 percent by 2004. The NEDA claimed that tariffs were primarily protectionist trade tools rather than revenue sources for government. The source said the NEDA believed that extending the tariff shields on industries would only force consumers to shoulder the inefficiency of industries in the form of high consumer prices.

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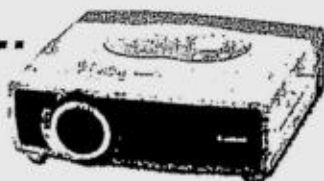
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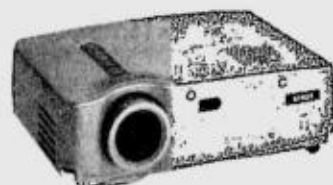
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Banks urged to share data on delinquent clients

By C.S. Batino

THE BANGKO Sentral ng Pilipinas is urging banks and credit card companies to step up the drive against fraud by sharing information, particularly on delinquent clients.

This, in turn, would bring down their usurious credit card rates that have been pushing a growing number of clients to default on their obligations.

"I told them to address the issue before it gets worse. The more they cut their losses, partly by addressing fraud, then the lower they can bring down rates. When this happens, less people will default on their loans," BSP Governor Rafael Buenaventura said.

He added that the central bank has not submitted to the Monetary Board any recommendation as to what measures should be imposed on banks engaged in the credit card business and specially those with a growing number of receivables.

During the first quarter, the soured credit card loans have gone up to a fourth of the banks' P47.09 billion in receivables, prompting the BSP to consider a freeze order on the issuance of new credit cards.

As of the first quarter, the past-due credit card loans went up to almost 25 percent (not nearly 50 percent as earlier reported) of the total receivables from 21.6 percent of P47.614 billion in receivables during the fourth quarter of 2001.

This was despite the decline in banks' credit card exposure by P667 million or 1.4 percent in the first quarter from the previous three-month period.

Seventeen big banks and 11 thrift banks are engaged in the credit card busi-

ness mostly through tie-ups with big names like Mastercard, Visa and Diners.

Buenaventura said that banks were hesitant to share information even on delinquent borrowers.

"They haven't shown cooperation with each other but the Credit Card Association already told me they will. The group would also lobby for a legislation that would impose stricter penalties on credit card fraud," the BSP chief said.

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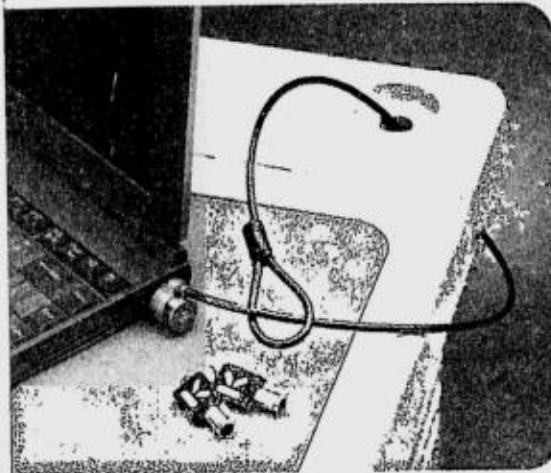
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Victor C. Agustin

WHAT the right hand gives, the left hand takes away.

Last Feb. 28, billionaire Emilio Yap turned over about P327 million in checks to the Supreme Court, representing the deposit plus interests of former Bulletin owner Hans Menzi that Yap's Philtrust Bank has been keeping since 1986.

The release of the Menzi deposits came after the Supreme Court upheld a Sandiganbayan order lifting the sequestration order on the Menzi money and ordering Philtrust to release the cash hoard to the Menzi estate.

Instead of handing over the money to Menzi estate administrator and ex-Bulletin corporate secretary, Manuel Montecillo, Philtrust turned over three checks covering the same amount to the Supreme Court.

More than four months have now passed, but Montecillo has yet to receive the checks. Why?

On the same day that it turned over the checks to the high court, Philtrust filed another motion to intervene before the Supreme Court, thereby blocking the release of the said instruments.

According to Philtrust counsel Gancayco, Balasubas & Associates, the consignment of the checks to the Supreme Court was needed since the government and the Menzi estate still have "conflicting claims" over the said deposits.

The release of the checks would now be dependent "upon entry of final judgment in this case," according to the Philtrust motion.

In the meantime, the real money (as opposed to the checks now with the Supreme

Court) stays with Philtrust, where it has lain for the past 16 years.

Lights on at Le Souffle

DINERS at Le Souffle in The Fort were spared from fumbling with their checks by the candlelight Friday after chef-owner Billy King coughed up P1.1 million to prevent Fort Bonifacio Development Corp. from cutting off electricity at the tony restaurant.

According to the grapevine, King handed a manager's check to the landlord in time for the 4 p.m. deadline, thus saving Le Souffle and its adjoining sister, The Butcher's Shop and Grill, from what could have been a major embarrassment.

The threatened cut-off came after King's earlier three check payments, amounting to P1.5 million, allegedly bounced. Le Souffle, Butcher's Shop, and another sister shop, the yet-to-be-opened Tamasha, an Indian restaurant, allegedly owe the landlord five months in back rentals.

The P1.1-million last-minute payment was just enough to cover the unpaid electric bills of Le Souffle, and the still simmering landlord was still threatening to cut off the power from the Butcher's Shop Friday night. That did not come to pass.

A visual check showed the lights were still on at the Butcher's Shop that night, with a hand-scratched sign, "We're Open," prominently displayed.

Today's special: Everything

AND speaking of restos in trouble, the Ortigas's El Pueblo management is auctioning T.G.I. Friday's equipment, tables-kitchen equipment-and-chairs, on Saturday.

El Pueblo foreclosed on the T.G.I.F. Ortigas branch after the chain's American principals closed shop two months ago and, according to the grapevine, left over a year in rent unpaid.

Instead of paying off P7 million in arrears, T.G.I. Friday's decided to allow the landlord to offset the proceeds from the auction against their liabilities.

Among the items to be auctioned are a 250-KVA generator set, plus assorted Americana memorabilia (knock-offs, unfortunately) that adorned the hip chain.

With the closure of the Ortigas branch, T.G.I.F. is left with one, but downsized, branch in Glorietta.

Heard through the grapevine

THE FIRST Pacific principals of Manuel V. Pangilinan will decide this week on what course to take against MVP in the light of the court suit filed by PLDT against its controlling Hong Kong shareholder.

Among the more benign options available for First Pacific is to recall MVP back to Hong Kong or reassign him to Indonesia. (Cocktales may be reached by e-mail at cocktales_pdi@yahoo.com or at cocktales_pdi@hotmail.com.)

MVP camp draws up plan to keep PLDT

From page B1

buy it at Gokongwei's price. At most, P600 per share (of PLDT) will be it. They feel the P1,140-per-share price is too high. MVP thinks the PLDT deal was overpriced because of the right of first refusal while BLC was underpriced because it has no right of first re-

fusal," the source stressed.

To consummate the deal, First Pacific needs to secure approval from PLDT's second biggest shareholder Nippon Telegraph and Telephone of Japan, which has both blocking rights as well as a right of first refusal under a shareholder agreement, which will expire by

March 2003.

NTT has thrown its support behind the PLDT board's handling of the Gokongwei deal.

"If First Pacific goes on with the sale to Gokongwei, they face legal suit. There is no way for the deal with Gokongwei to prosper because the Salims will fail to deliver the BLC and PLDT shares. There is nothing to sell after all," the source said.

On Friday, jitters over the impact of the corporate squabble in PLDT alongside concerns on debt restructuring drove down its share price to an 11-year low of P307.50 per share, now less than a third of the price that the Gokongweis had agreed to pay to control the single biggest voting block in the telecom giant.

On the other hand, the Pangilinan camp had noted that the 50.4-percent BLC stake was grossly undervalued by the deal, estimating that the book value was more than P40 billion as against the \$107 million (P5 billion) principal loan that First Pacific was in a hurry to liquidate. The camp also claimed that the Gokongwei deal would jeopardize MPC's debt restructuring program as it would remove the property firm's core asset.

BLC is the consortium leader developing the 150-hectare Fort Bonifacio Global City through a joint venture with state-controlled Bases Conversion Development Authority.

Pangilinan or MVP, the corporate head of both PLDT and MPC but at the same time a renegade executive chair of First Pacific, broke his ties with the Hong Kong-based conglomerate during last month's MPC stockholders' meeting when the board obtained sweeping powers "to protect the shareholders and creditors" of the property company.

These were the same powers now being used to resolve the BLC debts and prevent the transfer of the mortgaged shares to the First Pacific-Gokongwei venture. The source did not say which other groups would join the BLC consortium, but among the big groups that had reportedly offered help to MVP included taipans George Ty and Henry Sy.

"The Salims now know the plan but they have no other option. They are too focused on the Gokongwei deal. Eventually, the Salims have to talk to MVP and Cojuangco. They have no choice because they don't control PLDT with MVP around," the source explained.

The BLC loan takedown is alongside the layers of onshore and offshore legal obstacles being put up to prevent the transfer of PLDT shares.

Aside from blocking a due-diligence audit on PLDT by the Gokongweis, the PLDT board led by Pangilinan and Cojuangco have braced for a protracted proxy war as well as a legal tussle which they estimated could stall the deal for as long as four years.

Stocks . . .

From page B1

and the main-share index was likely to test the 1,100 support level.

The Philippine Stock Exchange composite index lost another 36.63 points or 3.17 percent week-on-week to close at a new six-month low of 1,119.72 on Friday.

"There are overwhelming depressing news that are turning off investors," said A&A Securities head of research Astro del Castillo, noting that any technical rebound after hitting oversold levels would not be sustainable.

The three biggest issues clouding market sentiment, Del Castillo said, were the political rift in Malacañang, the ballooning budget deficit and the corporate squabble in index heavyweight PLDT, which has now reached the US courts.

"PLDT has been dropping like a hot potato that no investor wants to pick it up," Del Castillo said.

The share price of the local telecommunications giant tumbled to an 11-year low of P307 per share on Friday, now only a third of the P1,140 per share that the Gokongweis have agreed to pay First Pacific Co. Ltd. under a \$925 million joint venture deal. **Doris Dumlaog**

PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

STOCKS	(As of Friday, July 5, 2002)				VOLUME
	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	
	BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES				
	BANKS				
Asiatic Dev. Bank Inc.	4.8	4.8	4.8	4.8	3,000
Banco de Oro Univ. Bank	18	18	17.75	18	218,500
Bank of the Phil. Islands	44	45	43.5	44.5	269,100
Citystate Savings Bank	14.25	14.25	14.25	14.25	2,000
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	30	30	28	29	222,400
First E-Bank Corp.	1.3	1.32	1.3	1.32	16,000
Global Business Bank Inc.	67.5	67.5	67.5	67.5	100
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	32.5	34	32.5	33.5	362,100
Philippine National Bank	33	33	30.5	30.5	102,400
Security Bank Corp.	14	14	13.75	13.75	2,200
Union Bank of the Phil.	20	20	19.5	19.5	23,000

CURRENCIES

July 5, 2002	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Foreign currency in US\$	Foreign currency in Peso
United States	Dollar	1.019472	1.000000	50.6780
Japan	Yen	0.008502	0.008340	0.4227
United Kingdom	Pound	1.557447	1.527700	77.4208
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.130709	0.128212	6.4975
Switzerland	Franc	0.682834	0.669792	33.9437
Canada	Dollar	0.665539	0.652827	33.0840
Singapore	Dollar	0.576625	0.565611	28.6640
Australia	Dollar	0.571133	0.560224	28.3910
Bahrain	Dinar	2.704313	2.652661	134.4316
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.271860	0.266667	13.5142
Brunei	Dollar	0.574998	0.564016	28.5832
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000114	0.000112	0.0057
Thailand	Baht	0.024542	0.024073	1.2200
UAE	Dirham	0.277596	0.272294	13.7993
Korea	Won	0.000854	0.000838	0.0425
Euro	Euro	1.000000	0.980900	49.7101
Brazil	Real	0.355341	0.348554	17.6640
India	Rupiah	0.134566	0.131996	6.6893
Denmark	Krone	0.020921	0.020521	1.0400
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.268318	0.263193	13.3381
Mexico	New Peso	0.102433	0.100477	5.0920
New Zealand	Dollar	0.498520	0.488998	24.7814
Norway	Krone	0.136277	0.133674	6.7743
Pakistan	Rupiah	0.017006	0.016681	0.8454

MONDAY, JULY 8, 2002

Banks' bad-loan ratio rises to 18.43% in May

By Clarissa S. Batino

THE NON-PERFORMING loans of commercial banks rose to 18.43 percent of their total loan portfolio in May, or slightly up from 18.23 percent in April.

In May, the bad loans went up by P4.2 billion to P305.459 billion from P301.286 billion a month ago while the loan portfolio went up by P4.5 billion to P1.657 trillion, documents from the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas showed.

Taking interbank loans out of the computation, the NPL ratio in May was also higher at 21.16 percent from 20.81 percent in April.

A year ago, the banks' bad loans burden only comprised 16.81 percent of their total loans but despite lower domestic interest rates this year, borrowers still found it difficult to settle even the interest on their loans.

Non-performing loans refer to accounts whose principal or interest is unpaid for 90 days or more after the due date. A loan is considered past due if it is unpaid after a month.

A broader definition of bad loans, which include current restructured loans, foreclosed assets and its ratio to total loans stood at 29.7 percent, up from 29.3 percent in April.

Some foreign banks feared that the level of problematic accounts would account for a third of the locally operating lenders' portfolio this year.

BSP Governor Rafael Buenaventura made a strong pitch for the passage of the law that would provide incentives to the so-called special purpose asset vehicles or SPAVs.

These are groups, also called asset management companies, with expertise in buying banks' bad accounts at a discount and collecting these

or selling the assets used as collateral for the loans.

"The level of NPLs is still high and this remains unacceptable. This is why we need the SPAV law badly. I hope that Congress, once its convenes on the 22nd, would resume action on the SPAV legislation," Buenaventura said.

Another central bank official noted that a promising trend that could improve the lenders' loan quality could be

the aggressive housing loan program of banks. More and more banks are engaging in a price war to attract borrowers specifically for housing loans.

The central bank was hoping that the bad loans would stabilize at current levels or even slow down to a more manageable amount this year.

Of the 4.2-billion increase in bad loans, the local universal banks accounted for P3.1 bil-

lion, followed by government banks with P856 million, and other commercial banks with P656 million. The P480-million decline in the NPLs of foreign banks partly offset the uptick of the other bank sectors.

The commercial banks' coverage ratio, an indicator that tells whether banks have enough reserves to guard against defaults, improved to 44.4 percent in May from 43.9 percent in April.

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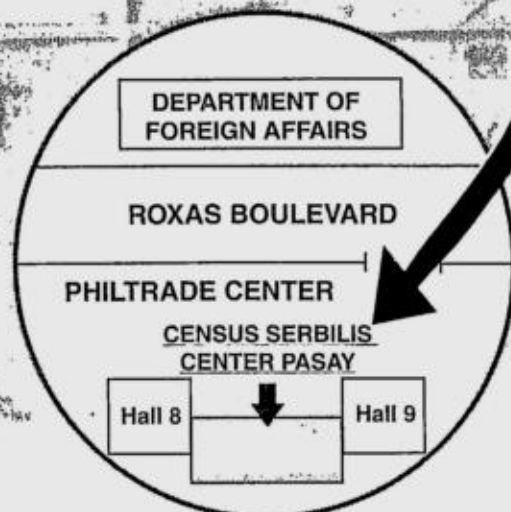
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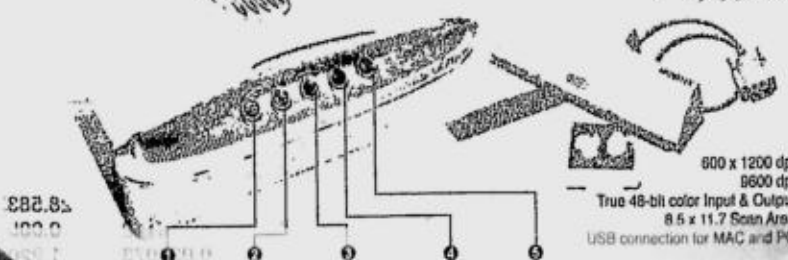
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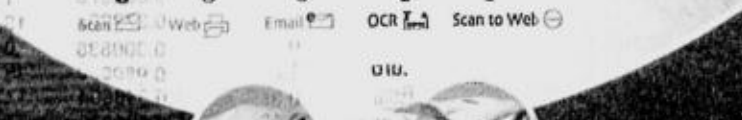
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Central bank seen letting thrifts in on bancassurance

By Clarissa S. Batino

GOVERNMENT regulators are considering allowing even large thrift banks to sell insurance products in their branches but are likely to exclude non-life insurance policies from the list.

"We decided to defer the cross-selling circular because we have to have some time to review how we will liberalize the policy," Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas Governor Rafael Buenaventura told reporters.

He explained, "We have to evaluate whether we could define an affiliate as one where a bank has a 5-percent stake in because, in other areas, the BSP defines an affiliate as where a bank has at least a 20-percent stake." Originally scheduled to be released

late last week, the circular on cross selling would instead be released in the next two weeks.

There was a recommendation to the policy-making Monetary Board during its meeting on Thursday to relax the central bank's definition of an affiliate to a 5-percent stake only for the policy on cross selling.

Buenaventura stressed in an interview that the "affiliate" should be an insurance company, not insurance agents or brokers.

Relaxing the policy is seen promoting the "bancassurance" business in the Philippines.

"Bancassurance" is a French term referring to the selling of insurance through a bank's established distribution channels. The result is a bank

that encompasses banking, insurance, lending and investment products.

Buenaventura said the Monetary Board was also open to letting thrift banks venture into bancassurance.

Monetary authorities are thinking of setting a certain level of capital and financial ratios that a bank must meet before it can engage in cross selling instead of limiting the business to commercial banks, Buenaventura said.

"We are open to becoming as liberal as we can on this, but it has to be within the spirit of the law and we cannot tailor-fit it for anybody. The overriding consideration is also the protection of depositors, so we would initially limit the products to be sold to those with very little risks," he said.

UOB needs to raise capital by P1.2B, BSP says

THE HEAD of the central bank said Friday that United Overseas Bank of the Philippines, a unit of United Overseas Bank Ltd. of Singapore, would have to raise its capital by at least P1.2 billion.

Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas Governor Rafael Buenaventura said UOB Philippines, as a commercial bank, should have a minimum capital of P2.8 billion.

The bank is currently capitalized at only P1.6 billion, according to a senior central bank official who asked not to be identified.

A person familiar with the matter said UOB Philippines' Singaporean shareholders were ready to pour additional capital into the bank to make it stronger and more competitive.

The policy-making Monetary Board of the central bank has ap-

proved, in principle, a deal that will allow UOB to buy its Filipino partners out of its local unit.

In a news briefing, Buenaventura disclosed that the board "approved the 100-percent acquisition by the Singaporean group of UOB Philippines, but this is subject to certain conditions like the infusion of fresh capital."

Buenaventura said UOB Philippines should build up its capital to achieve "a more acceptable capital adequacy ratio."

The central bank requires banks to earmark at least 10 percent of their capital as buffer for potential risks.

A bank's capital adequacy ratio is a measure of the amount of its capital expressed as a percentage of its risk weighted credit exposures. This ratio is used to protect depositors and pro-

mote the stability and efficiency of financial systems around the world.

Buenaventura said the acquisition should hasten UOB Philippines' rehabilitation.

UOB Philippines was known as Westmont Bank when UOB, with some funds from the Philippine Deposit Insurance Corp., bought a 60-percent stake in 1999.

On Wednesday, UOB announced that it would buy out of UOB Philippines the group of Jollibee Corp. majority owner Tony Tan Caktiong and the family and associates of former Finance Secretary Edgardo Espiritu for over P1 billion.

The agreement involves the total settlement of all claims, suits and counter-suits involving the ownership of UOB Philippines. **Clarissa S. Batino**

Pyramid scam now called multilevel marketing—Part 2

THERE was quite a reaction to my June 17 piece, "Pyramid scam now called multilevel marketing." Space limits me to discuss only the most important points.

Multilevel marketing is not always a pyramid scam. If a set of crockery is paid for and delivered—that is, each transaction is complete—at every point of sale on every level of the pyramid, there is no scam. But, if all the buyer gets when he parts with his money at the point of sale is a written promise that a bigger sum will be delivered to him at some specified future date, and the promise will be fulfilled with money collected from other buyers at the time of delivery, then you have a variation of the notorious Ponzi swindle—the pyramid scam—of robbing Peter to pay Paul.

But my comment that the investment of funds of pre-need companies was little regulated by the Securities and Exchange Commission earned the most vigorous reaction. In separate letters, Juan-Miguel M. Vasquez, president of the Philippine Federation of Pre-need Companies, and Emilio B. Aquino, director of the non-traditional securities and instruments department of the SEC, stressed the lengthened list of rules and regulations. And, as the pre-need people tirelessly point out to the public, an actuary accredited with the SEC computes the actuarial reserve liabilities, as if the actuary has waved a magic wand and, therefore, everything is all right.

Notice that the actuary computes liabilities—what the pre-need company owes. This is the actuarial valuation in the pre-need industry. The company has to match these liabilities with assets—what the company owns. The matching process is no longer the job of the actuary but of the investment manager. In the case of the trust fund that pre-need companies all boast about, which covers only 51 percent of the actuarial valuation anyway, it is the trustee bank that determines the value of the fund for matching purposes.

That is only a third of the story. The middle is that funds outside the trust fund are little regulated. What assets outside the trust fund—mind you, these cover 49 percent of the liabilities as set in the actuarial valuation—are included in the matching process? In the insurance industry, the law clearly specifies what assets can be used for matching the actuarial valuation. This is called admitted assets. Such assets as motor vehicles, cash advances, furniture, raw land and most agricultural land are non-admitted. There seems to be no similar rule in the pre-need industry.

Vasquez and Aquino say that the SEC

QUESTIONS OF POLICIES



Honesto C. General

now requires a mix of investments to achieve diversity. Well and good. But they should look at the insurance code on this point. And while they are at it, they might as well read up on the SSS and GSIS laws of 1997 (Republic Acts Nos. 8282 and 8381, respectively).

Also, how are assets valued from year to year in the pre-need industry? There seems to be no rules at the SEC. Isn't it possible that in the current real estate market slump—and pre-need firms are known to have invested heavily in real estate, including golf courses—real estate investments may have been pumped up to meet the actuarial valuation? I hear there is a pre-need company that owns raw land in Southern Tagalog, which is carried in the books at a whopping P600 million.

In the insurance industry, valuation of assets is covered by strict rules. For example, stocks are always booked at acquisition cost, no matter how high the value of the stocks may have soared in the stock exchange.

The insurance code and the Insurance Commission's implementing rules specify in great detail where and how funds are to be invested. If funds are invested outside of the rules, prior approval by the insurance commissioner has to be secured. Are there such rules at the SEC for pre-need companies?

But the final third of our story—and this is the most important—is this: What does the SEC do to make sure that every pre-need company follows the rules? At the Insurance Commission, there are eagle-eyed auditors who prey on every insurance company at least once a year. If the auditors find any rules broken, sanctions on the insurance company swiftly follow. Does the SEC exercise its visitorial powers on pre-need companies? Does Aquino's hard-working department conduct any field audits on pre-need companies to make sure that the rules are being followed? And does the department have power to throw the book at any pre-need company for any wrongdoing?

The SEC may have improved its supervision of pre-need companies, but, I am afraid, it has come too little and too late.

Manila reviewing bilateral trade with Australia

THE DEPARTMENT of Agriculture is reviewing the Philippines' bilateral farm trade with Australia.

In an interview, Agriculture Secretary Leonardo Montemayor said the government wanted to determine whether Australia was subjecting Philippine exports to "unreasonable" standards.

Trade Secretary Manuel Roxas II has expressed Manila's disappointment over Canberra's assessment that the Philippines still cannot export fresh bananas due to alleged threats of plant diseases and pests.

Roxas took exception to an assessment of watchdog agency Biosafety Australia.

Biosafety Australia's draft report said risks were too high that the Philippine banana imports would cause various diseases and pests to be introduced into Australia.

Roxas said he was still "encouraged" that the Australian report found "possible avenues for the reversal of such findings through review of available data, conduct of experiments and epidemiologic studies based on exist-

ing trade of Philippine bananas with other countries."

The secretary said there was "significant acceptance of Philippine bananas by other importing countries that themselves have equally stringent import requirements," indicating that the Philippines could find ways to meet Australian standards.

The local agriculture department is working with local banana growers to ensure they can meet Australia's stringent quarantine requirements, Roxas said. **Christine A. Gaylican**

UCBP approves release of P700M for cooperatives

THE UNITED Coconut Planters Bank board and oil mills of the Coconut Industry Investment Fund have approved the release of some P700 million for investment in the bank's social credit arm, UCPB-CIIF Finance and Development Corp.

UCPB chair and chief executive Edward Go said the board approved on Wednesday the release of some P596 million while the boards of CIIF's oil mills cleared investments worth about P104 million.

UCPB-CIIF Finance and Development lent a record P177 million to farmers' cooperatives last year.

The new investments bring to P802 million the total amount of low-cost loans that the UCPB unit has granted to farmers' cooperatives since its creation in 1995.

The 2001 figure was the highest ever for the UCPB-CIIF Finance and Development.

The loans, which carry lower-than-market interest rates, financed the livelihood projects of small coconut farmers in 61 of the country's 64 coconut-growing provinces.

The coconut farmer beneficiaries, who own from 1 to 5 hectares of land, belong to 864 farmers' cooperatives that have so far been accredited to the bank's special social credit program.

These accredited cooperatives have a combined membership of 350,000 farmers.

Typical loan sizes are small, averaging within a range of P20,000 to P30,000, and most of the beneficiaries have been paying.

Out of the total outstanding loans, 91 percent are current, meaning farmers are able to generate enough funds to repay their loans, according to UCPB.

UCPB-CIIF Finance and Development gets its funding from international lending agencies such as the World Bank and Asian Development Bank for rural development projects.

The Macapagal administration earlier this year took control of UCPB after replacing the holdover board appointed by ousted President Joseph Estrada. **Elena R. Torrijos**

SEC adopts new accounting rules

By Elena R. Torrijos

DRAWING from the lessons of the accounting scandals hounding the United States, the Securities and Exchange Commission has adopted new accounting standards that could lead to radical changes in the way companies draw up their financial statements.

In its meeting Thursday, the Commission agreed to adopt seven new Statements of Financial Accounting Standards that companies would be required to adopt in their audited financial statements starting this year.

These new provisions were approved by the Philippine Regulatory Commission through its Board of Accountancy in a bid to put the Philippines' accounting standards at par with internationally accepted standards.

The SFAS will affect the computation of the following: property, plant and equipment; related party disclosures; consolidated financial statements and accounting for investment in subsidiaries; accounting for investment in associates; financial reporting of interest in joint ventures; discontinuing op-

erations and impairment of assets.

"All data/information shall be presented or restated to conform with the provisions of the new accounting standards for comparability," the Commission said in a memorandum circular.

SEC associate commissioner Jesus Martinez told reporters last week that the implementation of the new standards could affect the profitability of companies, but these would present a clearer picture of their profitability to protect the interest of investors.

Under the new rules, for instance, companies would no longer be allowed to amortize expenses for the purchase or lease of property, plant and equipment. Instead, companies must book the entire amount of the purchase or lease at the time the deal was executed.

Martinez noted that the financial statements of Enron Corp., which was the first major company to declare bankruptcy due to faulty accounting, showed that the energy-trading firm postponed charges of plant and equipment.

This helped create the illusion that the company was financially healthy.

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MONDAY, JULY 8, 2002

EU, Asia ministers optimistic on growth

COPENHAGEN—Finance ministers from Europe and Asia are upbeat about the prospects for global growth in the second half of this year and 2003 with Asia expecting growth rates to top the global average, the current chair of Europe's finance ministers said on Friday.

Danish Finance Minister Thor Pedersen also told reporters that ministers from the 15 European Union nations and 10 Asian countries (Asem) had reaffirmed their commitment to combat the financing of terrorism.

"The Asem ministers agreed the international economy was recovering and growth will accelerate in the second half of 2002 and in 2003," Pedersen told reporters following the first day of meetings in a converted warehouse next to the canals of Copenhagen.

"With respect to Asia, the expectation is that growth rates will return to levels above global average, however high growth rates can only be sustained if deep-rooted structural reforms are implemented," he added.

The talks in Copenhagen took place against the backdrop of stock market volatility and gyrations in the currency market, but the ministers did not discuss the recent decline in the dollar, Pedersen said.

The ministers are in Copenhagen—current president of the EU—for talks on Friday and Saturday in preparation for a meeting of Asem heads of state in September.

The talks on Friday focused on the state of the global economy, structural reforms and ways to address money laundering and the financing of terrorism.

On Saturday the ministers will discuss how to make the world financial system less crisis-prone with the EU passing on to Asian ministers its experience with monetary union and the birth of the single currency in 1999.

In the wake of the Asian financial crises in 1997, countries have increased their financial cooperation with such initiatives as central bank swap agreements that can be activated in the event of a speculative attack on any of their currencies.

Asem groups the 15 European Union members plus China, Thailand, Indonesia, Malaysia, Brunei, South Korea, Vietnam, Singapore, the Philippines and Japan. **Reuters**

Jobless rate soars in US

WASHINGTON—The US unemployment rate ticked higher in June amid stubbornly sluggish hiring, a sign the road back to full economic health could be long and rocky.

Employers outside the farm sector added a paltry 36,000 workers to their payrolls last month, the Labor Department said on Friday—less than half what economists had expected.

Moreover, the department ratcheted down its data for April and May to show jobs growth of just 3,000 over those two months, compared with a total rise of 47,000 reported earlier.

With the jobs market still so frail, the unemployment rate rose to 5.9 percent in June from 5.8 percent a month earlier.

"You're seeing an improving trend, but it's pretty minimal. The report is still suggesting the labor market is improving, but not markedly so," Bank of Montreal/Harris Bank Assistant Chief Economist Paul Perley said.

The weak tone of the report dovetailed with the view that the Federal Reserve would bide its time before raising overnight interest rates from a 40-year low of 1.75 percent.

US Treasury prices got a boost from the report early in the day, but closed mostly lower as money flowed to a stock market rallying on relief that the Fourth of July holiday passed without any major terror incident.

The Dow Jones industrial average climbed 324 points, or 3.58 percent, while the tech-heavy Nasdaq Composite Index surged about 68 points, or 4.94 percent.

While June's payrolls gain was the biggest since a rise of 75,000 in February 2001, it showed hiring remains anemic. Analysts say monthly payroll increases in excess of 100,000 are needed to ensure the jobless rate does not continue to rise.

"We are still in a recovery, but the recovery is a little bit more tepid than we would like," Labor Secretary Elaine Chao told reporters. "It will take some time before businesses regain confidence in the long-term sustainability of the economy before they embark upon permanent hiring." **Reuters**

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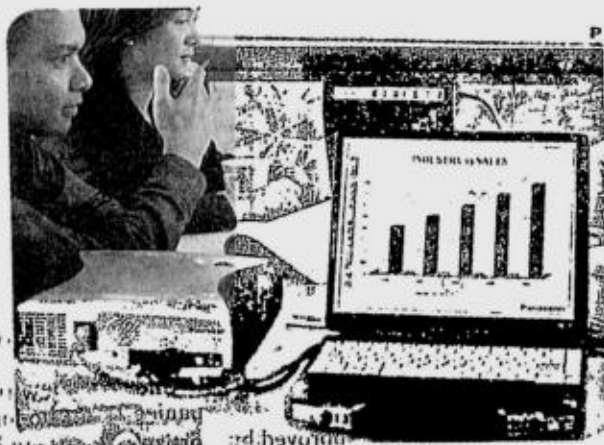
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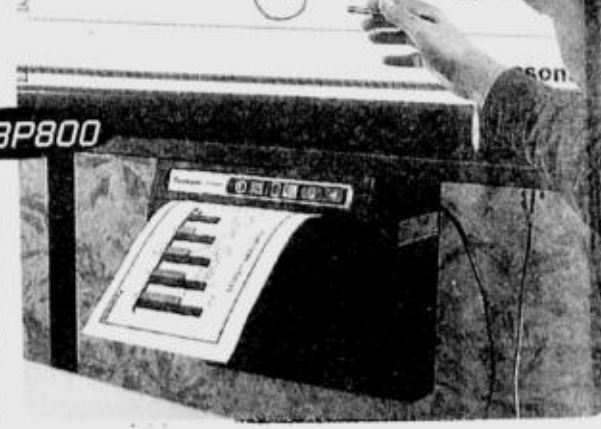


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FARM/FISHPEN FARM 3min. drive Tagaytay 1.7hect P650/m² 09176426849	PROPERTY FOR SALE Lot - 355 sqm House - 5329 sqm Address: 14 Magsaysay Street To, Makati City • Contact person Nito del Rosario Tel. 897-8808 loc. 229	LOT LAGUNA BEL AIR 3 "Affordable na, first class pa" Hurry! 95 units left 0917-914250 Lus	LOT Zapote cor J.P. Rizal 246 sqm RUSH! P26T/sqm 5646593 5633742 09178473744	LOT 130sqm P2.5M T800-3222

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

Contracting of Consulting Services for Risk Sharing:
 Palawan New and Renewable Energy and Livelihood Support Project
 (PHI/99/G35 and PHI/99/013)

The Development Support Services Center (DSSC) of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) invites local consultants to apply for eligibility and to bid for the "Design Risk Sharing Mechanism for an Appropriate Delivery Mechanism for Renewable Energy and for Other NRE Support Schemes in the Province of Palawan", a sub-contract under the Palawan New and Renewable Energy and Livelihood Support Project (PNRELSPP).

The PNRELSPP of UNDP and the Global Environment Facility (GEF), which is implemented by the Center for Renewable Resources and Energy Efficiency (CRREE), will demonstrate the viability of direct sales and other appropriate delivery mechanisms for renewable energy.

The project therefore requires the services of a consulting firm to design a risk-sharing mechanism (RSM) for the approaches identified and for other investment schemes for renewable energy. The risk-sharing mechanism is important for the Provincial Government of Palawan to support the private sector in providing renewable energy services to all non-electrified communities, as well as ensure financial viability of the private sector and promote renewable energy utilization among income groups.

For interested parties, Bid Documents (Eligibility Requirements, Instructions to Bidders and Terms of Reference) may be secured personally, upon payment of a non-refundable amount of Php 1,000.00 from the following address:

Development Support Services Center
 United Nations Development Programme
 7th Floor, NEDA sa Makati Building
 106 Amorsolo Street, Legaspi Village, 1229 Makati City
 Tel. No. (632) 892 0611 loc. 275
 Fax No. (632) 816-4061; 893-9598
 Email Address : bc_admin.ph@undp.org

The abovementioned Bid Documents will be released to all interested participants starting July 10, 2002 to July 16, 2002 only. The Bid Documents shall contain all instructions on the rules, procedures, bid opening dates and other schedules.

UNDP reserves the right to reject any or all the bids, waive any defect or informality therein, accept the bid and award the contract to the most advantageous offer to the UNDP, for and in behalf of the Protected Area and Wildlife Bureau, Department of Environment and Natural Resources. UNDP assumes no responsibility to compensate or indemnify the bidder for any expense or loss that may be incurred for the preparation of bids, nor does it guarantee that an award will be made.

(Sgd.) ETHELIND B. CAPUNO
 Manager, DSSC

(PDI - July 8, 2002)

GENERAL ITEMS FOR SALE	EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES	PUBLIC NOTICES	PUBLIC NOTICES
PETS DOG TRAINER 4526681 ROTTWEILER AMBUL HUSKY BOSTON TERRIER PUPA SALE 939-4390 SPORTING GOODS 22T Pool St New Compl 7767507 WANTED TO BUY BUYING ROLEX others, High Price CASH 09178142309/7269687/4123543 ANY ROLEX Buy / Sell / Pawn / Repair Tel# 804-0484 • 834-2886 Buy/Pawn Diamonds T834-2886 WE BUY AT HIGH PRICE ROLEX 5633742 5646593 09178147344 MISCELLANEOUS B/SELL EDUC'L PLAN 8061574 B/SELL FULY PD EDUC PLAN 7800106/0917-7939632 LAND BANK BONDS 9216426 EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES MALE 18-24 yrs. old Graduate of Any Electronic Tech. Course 410-8603 Rene 8-12am Wkdays GAY JR STYLIST T7.5-T8 Ask Aga 631-9949 303-8685 PROMODISER Call level, speak Eng MtoG / F52" Pasog, Cubao, QC area 560-3881 • look for Ms. Gina	FEMALE INTERNATIONAL COOK 21-35 yrs old stay-in for a family of 4, can follow recipes, plan weekly menu, College level, single P3500 start /month increase P500 per 6 months. Tel. 439-4260 Sales Secretary/Hair Dresser Bio-data email: danielanapala.com Secretary good looking tal- ented w/height 3636247 MALE/FEMALE ARTIST Specialized in Sty- ropor • 843-2596 FREE CARE GIVER SEMINAR 561-4990 563-8009 *ADMIN STAFF (20) 9134470 0917-5033825 MS POWERS W-Calendar Sales & Promo for Show Apply 292 J Abad Santos SJ 77240346 *OFC STAFF 9134470 Gay* HR STAFF 09202094215 Betty IMD'T HIRE! 18 OFC. CLERK START ASAP 6395036 SHERYL IMT INC. (THIS IS ASAP!) ASSISTANT TEACHER IN SUBIC. KOL 8452782 & 8846003 MAKATI CITY JOB Hiring: OFFICE STAFF Col Level Lk4Jesa #931-1906 LIC. X-RAY TECH. 913-3154 Diagnostic Center 722-0568 Ole stall 7138116 Gosh OFC STAFF 9134470 BOTER OFC STF DIMPLES 7492993 Yaya Cook Maid 925-4153 PUBLIC NOTICES ANNOUNCEMENT FREE MEDITATION CLASSES (02)0697313 / 09192081737 BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES Adultwear consign 3738921	BROKERS/AGENTS Libo QC (PO Box 1504 MCPO 1255 Mui City) COCONUT OIL MILLS Oper'l, 6803 sqm, Whse, Bldg 2 Explr, Copra (0918)9153710 Globe 265.5 / Smart 265 7459351 I MAKE P500,000.00/mo Needs Person to Train • Tel # 525-0234 • Nice 50sqm 2nd Flr, Virra Mail San Juan 722-5778 / 79 Wanted Wholesaler or Refill Printer Ink Call us (COC) 0425854240 / 09165329899 LEGAL NOTICE Notice is given that the estate of the late Eduardo M. Virgino was extrajudicially settled with waiver of rights by his heirs consist- ing of MERALCO 3885 A Shares & 2585 B Shares Per Doc 87, Page 19, Book III, Series of 2002 Before Notary Public Maria Sarah R. Villanueva of Pasig City. (June 24, July 1, & 8 2002) Notice is hereby given that the heirs of ATTY. MARCIAL P. LAGUNZAD, JR was extra- judicially settled among his heirs per Notary Public Atty. Godofredo T. Liban II of Q.C. under Doc No. 262; Page No. 53; Book No. II Series of 2002. (PDI-June 24, July 1 & 8, 2002) NOTICE is hereby given that the heirs of JOSE D. INGLES who died on Oct. 30, 1993 in QC have executed a deed of extrajudicial settlement with waiver of rights before Notary Public Rodolfo Lopez on June 25, 2002 and entered in his Notarial Register on Doc 1007, Page 102, Book No. 10, Series 2002 of June 25, 2002 (PDI-July 1, 8 and 15, 2002) NOTICE is hereby given that the estate of the late BENJAMIN A. DE REVERA has been extra judicially settled among his heirs on June 18, 2002 as per Doc No. 04, Page No. 17, Book No. I, Series of 2002 Before Atty. Jose V. Mayra, Notary Public for Makati City (PDI-July 1 8 & 15 '2002)	BALLOON BUSINESS BE PART OF THE BOOMING Balloon Business FAST SELLING!!! A ONE ON ONE INTENSIVE WORKSHOP TRAINING INSTRUCTOR TRAINED IN ATHENS, USA, JAPAN, ATLANTIC REGION THE OFFICIAL PHILIPPINE REPRESENTATIVE FOR THE INTERNATIONAL BALLOON ARTS CONVENTION 2002 LIMITED ENROLLMENT YOU MUST PRE-REGISTER BALLOON CAMP ASIA 532-3517 0917-8388000 LEGAL NOTICE NOTICE is hereby given that the estate of the late ROSENDO A. GONZAGA has been extrajudicially settled by their heirs per Doc#487, Page#98, Book#1, Series of 2002 of the National Register of Atty. Edmundo Dantes M. Samson of Makati City. (PDI-June 24, July 1 & 8, 2002) NOTICE OF LOSS LIBERTY INSURANCE CORPORATION hereby informs the public that one booklet of Official Receipts with Serial Nos 205851 to 205900 are lost and unaccounted. Any transactions covered by these receipts will not be honored PDI-July 7, 8 & 9, 2000 Notice is given that Philippine National Bank Certificate No 465911 under the name of Maria A. Tablizo was lost. If no contest ngva Certificate will be issued. (PDI-July 7, 8 & 15, 2002) PERSONAL NOVENA TO THE MOST SACRED HEART OF JESUS AND SAINT JUDE May the most Sacred Heart of Jesus be praised, blessed, loved, adored and glorified throughout the whole world now and forever Amen. Most Sacred Heart of Jesus. Pray for us. St. Jude, worker of miracles, helper for the helpless, pray for us. Thank you very much, Most Sacred Heart of Jesus and St Jude, for favor granted



REPUBLIKA NG PILIPINAS
Pambansang Korporasyon Sa Elektrisidad
(NATIONAL POWER CORPORATION)

INVITATION FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID AD NO. PD 2002-19

Opening Date : July 23, 2002 - 9:00 AM
E-Bidding Date : July 31, 2002 - 9:00 AM

2002-19-01 PLATES, SUS316L, various sizes/PIPES, Elbow/Flange, SUS316L various sizes/GASKET rubber, neoprene, various sizes

Interested parties are invited to apply for eligibility and to submit sealed bids on the above to be opened publicly at the Sampaguita Room, Ground Floor Bldg. 2 NPC-OBC, Quezon Avenue cor. Agham Road, Diliman, Quezon City.

Eligibility forms and bidding documents are available on July 8, 2002 upon payment of P50.00 per schedule which is non-refundable & presentation of TIN/supplier's number (DCE).

Issuance of eligibility forms and bidding documents mornings only, 8:30 to 11:30 a.m. For inquiries please call No. 921-2574. Last day of issuance of bidding documents July 18, 2002.

The Corporation reserves the right to reject any or all bids without offering any reason, waive any defect therein and accept the offer most advantageous to the Corporation.

MATERIALS MANAGEMENT DEPARTMENT
NPC-OBC (Head Office)
Diliman, Quezon City

(PD1 - July 8 & 9, 2002)



Republic of the Philippines
Province of Aklan
Municipality of Malinao

INVITATION TO BID

July 2, 2002
World Bank Loan No. 4446 PH

- The Government of the Philippines has received a loan from the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development towards the cost of Local Government Finance and Development and intends to apply part of the funds to cover eligible payments under the Contract for the Construction of Two-Storey School Building. Bidding is open to all bidders from eligible source countries as defined in the Guidelines: Procurement under IBRD Loans and IDA Credits.
- The Municipality of Malinao, Aklan invites sealed bids from eligible sources for the construction of two storey school building with six classrooms, one library, one computer/laboratory room, one faculty, and comfort rooms with a total floor area of approximately 1026 square meters, located at Bulabud Elementary School Campus, Barangay Bulabud, Malinao, Aklan.
- Bidding documents may be purchased on July 8 - August 21, 2002 at the Office of the Mayor, Municipal Building, Malinao, Aklan upon payment of a non-refundable fee of five thousand pesos (PHP 5,000.00) or its equivalent in a freely-convertible currency, for each set. Interested bidders may obtain further information at the same address.
- Bids shall be valid for a period of ninety (90) days after bid opening and must be accompanied by security of one hundred eighty thousand pesos (PHP 180,000.00) in a form of cash, certified check, bank guarantee or its equivalent in a convertible currency, and shall be delivered to the Special Projects Management Office, Conference Hall, Municipal Building, Malinao, Aklan on or before 9:30 A.M. on August 21, 2002 at which time they will be opened in the presence of the bidders who wish to attend.
- A pre-bid conference will be held at 9:30 A.M. on August 7, 2002 at the Conference Hall, Municipal Building, Malinao, Aklan.
- The Municipality of Malinao reserves the right to accept or reject any bid and to cancel the bidding process and reject all bids at any time prior to the award of contract.

(Sgd.) HON. DOMINADOR Y. ILIO, JR.
Municipal Mayor

(PD1-July 8, 2002)



PHILIPPINE NATIONAL OIL COMPANY
PNOC Building VI, Energy Center
Merrill Road, Fort Bonifacio, M.M.
Tel. No. 555-0254 / 840-1440

INVITATION TO PRE-QUALIFY AND BID

The PHILIPPINE NATIONAL OIL COMPANY (PNOC) invites accredited Suppliers/Contractors to submit sealed bids for the following requirements:

Project Title	Pre-bid Meeting	Pre-Qual. Deadline	Bid deadline
Supply of Labor & materials for the Sealing & Coating of Glass Curtains of the PNOC Building	July 16, 2002 / (2:00 PM)	August 02, 2002	Aug. 13, 2002 / (2:00 PM)
Repainting of the Exterior of the PNOC Building (RE-BID)	July 16, 2002 / (2:00 PM)	August 02, 2002	Aug. 13, 2002 / (2:00 PM)
Two (2) year Internet Leased Line Connection Service	July 16, 2002 / (2:00 PM)	August 10, 2002	Aug. 27, 2002 / (2:00 PM)
Custodial Services (Janitors/Plumber/Carpenter) for the PNOC Building	July 25, 2002 / (2:00 PM)	August 16, 2002	Aug. 28, 2002 / (2:00 PM)
Messenger Services	July 25, 2002 / (2:30 PM)	August 16, 2002	Sept. 03, 2002 / (2:00 PM)
Supply of Purified Drinking Water/Water Dispenser	-	August 16, 2002	Sept. 03, 2002 / (2:00 PM)
Photocopying Services (Copier-Rental)	-	August 16, 2002	Sept. 10, 2002 / (2:00 PM)
Maintenance of Fire Protection System	-	August 16, 2002	Sept. 10, 2002 / (2:00 PM)
Maintenance of PBX System	-	August 16, 2002	Sept. 10, 2002 / (2:00 PM)
Pest Control Services (PNOC Building)	July 30, 2002 / (2:00 PM)	August 16, 2002	Sept. 12, 2002 / (2:00 PM)
Pest Control Services (PNOC Housing - Batangas)	July 30, 2002 / (2:30 PM)	August 16, 2002	Sept. 12, 2002 / (2:00 PM)
Shuttle Services (2 buses)	Aug. 6, 2002 / (2:00 PM)	August 16, 2002	Sept. 17, 2002 / (2:00 PM)
Rental of Ornamental Plants	-	August 16, 2002	Sept. 17, 2002 / (2:00 PM)
Security Services (M.M. Properties)	Aug. 1, 2002 / (2:30 PM)	August 16, 2002	Sept. 19, 2002 / (2:00 PM)
Security Services (Provincial Properties)	Aug. 1, 2002 / (3:00 PM)	August 16, 2002	Sept. 19, 2002 / (2:00 PM)
Canteen Concessionaire	Aug. 1, 2002 / (2:00 PM)	August 16, 2002	Sept. 19, 2002 / (2:00 PM)

Interested ACCREDITED parties may obtain bid forms upon payment of a non-refundable fee of P100.00 per bid package from the PNOC-Property and Supply Management Division (PSMD) at the G/F of the PNOC Building.

Interested parties who are not yet accredited must first pass the pre-qualification process. Pre-qualification documents-checklist is available (M-F, 9am-3pm) at the said address upon payment of a non-refundable fee of P100.00, which must be accomplished and submitted to PSMD on or before the set deadline. Failure to pre-qualify would render the concerned parties automatically disqualified from this bidding.

For purposes of clarifying issues, interested parties are encouraged to attend the pre-bid meeting as scheduled.

All bids must be accompanied by a bid security equivalent to 10% of the total bid price but not to exceed ONE HUNDRED THOUSAND PESOS (P100,000.00), secured from any one of PNOC's accredited bonding companies.

The PNOC reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids or parts thereof, to waive formality therein or to accept such bids or to award any work that are considered most advantageous to the company.

(Sgd.) ATTY. PEDRO A. AQUINO, JR.
Senior Vice President
Legal Admin & Estate Mgt. Services

(PD1 - July 7 & 8, 2002)

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Local Government Unit (LGU) of Abulug as implementing partner of DAR for ARCP, invite prospective bidders to apply for eligibility and if eligible, to bid for the Concrete Paving of Simayung Dana-Ili Farm to Market Road, Abulug, Cagayan.

Eligibility statement forms and bidding documents may be secured by interested bidders at the office of the Chairman Bid and Award Committee (BAC) upon payment of non-refundable fee of One Thousand Five Hundred Pesos (P1,500.00) per set on July 8-12, 2002.

Submission of Application for Eligibility July 15, 2002 at 10:00 A.M.
Pre-bid Conference July 22, 2002 at 10:00 A.M.
Submission & Opening of Bids August 8, 2002 at 10:00 A.M.

The approved budget for this project is Seventeen Million Five Hundred Ninety Three Thousand Four Hundred Fifty Nine Pesos and Eleven Centavos (P17,593,459.11).

The BAC reserves the right to reject any or all bids, waive any defect or formality, assume no obligation whatsoever or indemnify to the bidder for the bid most advantageous to the Government. The provision of PD 1594 and its implementing Rules and Regulations as amended August 2000, shall apply to this invitation.

(Sgd.) BABY ALINE V. ALFONSO
Chairman
Bid and Award Committee

(PD1-July 6, 8 & 10, 2002)

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c/o Ms. Mariou Ty
Eddie-Mar News & Magazine Center
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Magsal Street, Iloilo City
Tel. No. (033) 337-3120/337-6018
Mr. Jim Feliciano
309 Ladomina Street, Iloilo City
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Ms. Mariela Santos
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Tel. Nos. (026) 621-5585/622-6925
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Tel. Nos. (053) 325-6743/321-2954
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Mr. Ferdinand Mercado
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The PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER enjoys the biggest circulation and readership among all the major broadsheets in the country. It has a dominant market share of over 55% according to the 2000 Asia Research Organization (ARO) Tr-Media Study.

We accept Classified advertisements

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Colombo
Marquez News & Magazine Agency
Marquez Building, 51 Simson Avenue
Colombo City
Tel. Nos. (064) 421-3264/421-8611/
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Davao City (Former Galtana Hotel)
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Ground Floor, Victoria Plaza
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Mr. Ramon Dimalanta
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CLASSIFIEDS
The Daily Inquirer

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INQUIRER

RiViA
By BONG BARRAMEDA

Jock juice

Q. Who invented Gatorade?

A. This sweet soft drink was developed by Dr. Robert Cade at the University of Florida in Gainesville, Florida, in 1965 to help athletes replenish fluids and minerals. It was so called because the university's football team was nicknamed the "Gators" (for "Alligators")—"Gator" + -ade (drink made from). The beverage became popular after it was adopted by the National Football League in 1967 as an official drink.

What's the Difference? Crocodile/Alligator.
Crocodiles are so much bigger, reaching up to twenty feet in length, and live in the sluggish waters of tropics worldwide. Alligators live only in China and in the southeastern United States and reach 'only' eleven feet in length. An Alligator's snout is broader and rounder that gives it head a triangular-shaped appearance, while more of a crocodile's teeth protrude when its mouth is shut, making the animal look fiercer. But don't let appearance mislead you; although alligators are said to be less vicious than crocodiles, both are killers that wouldn't hesitate to bite the hand that feeds them.

WORD WATCH

Trophophobia (tro'poo fow bi'uh): fear of making changes.

PD1 - July 8, 2002

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OBITUARIES

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Col. Gonzalo P. Barcia PAFR

*Died in the grace of our Lord
 on July 6, 2002 at the age of 79.*

His loving wife Cora; children Kathleen & Ramon del Gallego, Deborah & Jeffrey Cruz, Rose & Alex Alcantara, Cynthia, JJ & Josie; together with grandchildren Raton & Cookie, Kristine, Bianca, Victoria & Francis, Andrea, Katrina, Andrew, Anton, Patricia, Roberto and Jose; and great grandchildren Ysabel, Don & Miguel; his brothers Jesus (†) Jose Mari (†), Rodolfo (†), Pelayo (†), Rodrigo; sisters Toni, Miriam, Bona & Teresa; nieces and nephews Jasmine & Tom, Juan & Marilyn, Carmen, Pixie & David, Maya, Carmela, Rose, Celine, Cecille, Bong, Bing, Dado & Buttons, Edwin & Gigi, Mario, Cookie & Carlo, request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at the Cosmopolitan Funeral Homes, Camus Street, Davao City.

Interment will be on Wednesday, July 10, 2002 after the 9:00 a.m. Mass at the Davao Memorial Park.

In lieu of flowers, donations to the Boystown Foundation will be appreciated.

In Loving Memory
of

HERMINIA MEJIA GANCAYCO

*Who passed away in the Grace of our Lord
 on July 6, 2002 at the age of 80.*

Her loving husband **Justice Emilio A. Gancayco**; children **Efren** and **Mian**, **Annie** and **Lito**, **Tony** and **Ongie**, **Sonny** and **Vicky**, **Pablo** and **Dot**; grandchildren **Thrina**, **Tootsie**, **Joao** and **Jig**, **Olive**, **Raymond** and **Ann**, **Lauren**, **Lucky** and **Joseph**, **Jon-jon** and **Mika**; brothers **Jaime** (†), **Manuel**; and sister **Mate**; sister-in-law **Luz** and their children, other relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at Premier I of the Loyola Memorial Chapels, Guadalupe, wherein Holy Masses will be held 8:00 p.m. daily.

Funeral Mass will be celebrated on Saturday, July 13, 2002 at 9:30 a.m. at the Parish of the Holy Sacrifice, UP Diliman, Quezon City.

Interment will immediately follow at Loyola Memorial Park, Marikina City.

Our Dearly Beloved Mamang
MARIA NANETTE C. VILLAMIL

of Dagupan City and Alantinos City

Pencefully joined our Lord on July 5, 2002 at the age of 76.

Her loving husband Francisco Sr. (†); children Delta and Mariano, Rodolfo and Zenaida, Zosimo and Luz, Francisco Jr. (†) and Armi, Angelo and Minnie, Benito (†), Blesilla and Reyuldo, Humberto and Ofelia, Cocoy and Rhodilyn, Domar (†); grandchildren and great grandchildren, remember her with love and request for her repose.

Her remains lie in state at Chapel B of La Funeraria Paz, Araneta Avenue, Quezon City.

Interment will be on Thursday, July 11, 2002 at Manila Memorial Park, Sucat, Parañaque after the 9:00 a.m. Mass.

2nd Death Anniversary
GABRIELA BAGA ELEOSIDA
PRESENTACION BAGA BAUTISTA

of
BATAK, ILOCOS NORTE
and KIDAPAWAN CITY

Masses will be offered on July 8, 2002 at:

Our Lady Medatrix of all Graces, 11:45 AM
 Kuluapan City, 10:00 AM
 Immaculate Conception, 10:00 AM
 Vista Verde, Cainta, Rizal, 6:00 AM
 Our Lady of Della Estrada, Quezon City, 6:00 AM
 St. Anne, Jigugs, Metro Manila, 6:00 AM
 Santuario de San Jose, Greenhills, 6:00 AM

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"absent with the body to be present with the Lord"

We, the family of the late

Bienvenido S. Arellano

wish to express our profound gratitude for your spontaneous love, sympathy and support at his untimely demise on June 28, 2002.

We find strength and we are humbly grateful to you all in knowing that he touched so many lives in his concern for others.

He will continue living on in our hearts and through the lives we lead as testament to his legacy of love.

Thank you very much.

Wife Vicky; children Mayen & John, Noel & Raquel, and Tessa; grandchildren, sisters, brothers and other relatives.

JAIME (Jimmy) UTSIG

Died on July 3, 2002 at the age of 46.

His wife Gigi; children Jerry and Joanne request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His body lies in state at his residence at Balite, Montalban, Rizal.

Interment will be on Tuesday, July 9, 2002 at 12:00 noon at Montalban Cemetery, Rodriguez, Rizal.

For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have everlasting life.
 John 3:16

An obituary with a picture can be a fitting tribute to your departed loved one.

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 • Copy of Death Certificate; • Any Identification document (I.D.)

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 SM MEGAMALL, MANDALUYONG CITY
 Tel. 6350219 Fax 6350220
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OBITUARIES

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...because they deserve only the best.
 For information, call 1-800-828-8888

Col. Gonzalo P. Barcia PAFR

'Died in the grace of our Lord on July 6, 2002 at the age of 79.

His loving wife Cora; children Kathleen & Ramon del Gallego, Deborah & Jeffrey Cruz, Rose & Alex Alcantara, Cynthia, JJ & Josie; together with grandchildren Raton & Cookie, Kristine, Bianca, Victoria & Francis, Andrea, Katrina, Andrew, Anton, Patricia, Roberto and Jose; and great grandchildren Isabel, Don & Miguel; his brothers Jesus (+) Jose Mari (+), Rodolfo (+), Pelayo (+), Rodrigo; sisters Toni, Miriam, Bona & Teresa; nieces and nephews Jasmine & Tom, Juan & Marilyn, Carmen, Pixie & David, Maya, Carmela, Rose, Celine, Cecille, Bong, Bing, Dado & Buttons, Edwin & Gigi, Mario, Cookie & Carlo, request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at the Cosmopolitan Funeral Homes, Camus Street, Davao City.

Interment will be on Wednesday, July 10, 2002 after the 9:00 a.m. Mass at the Davao Memorial Park.

In lieu of flowers, donations to the Boystown Foundation will be appreciated.

"absent with the body to be present with the Lord"

We, the family of the late

Bienvenido S. Arellano

wish to express our profound gratitude for your spontaneous love, sympathy and support at his untimely demise on June 28, 2002.

We find strength and we are humbly grateful to you all in knowing that he touched so many lives in his concern for others.

He will continue living on in our hearts and through the lives we lead as testament to his legacy of love.

Thank you very much.

Wife Vicky; children Mayen & John, Noel & Raquel, and Tessa; grandchildren, sisters, brothers and other relatives.

JAIME (Jimmy) UTSIG

Died on July 4, 2002 at the age of 46.

His wife Gigi; children Jerry and Joanne request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His body lies in state at his residence at Balite, Montalban, Rizal.

Interment will be on Tuesday, July 9, 2002 at 12:00 noon at Montalban Cemetery, Rodriguez, Rizal.

For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have everlasting life.

John 3:16

In Loving Memory of

HERMINIA MEJIA GANCAYCO

Who passed away in the Grace of our Lord on July 6, 2002 at the age of 80.

Her loving husband **Justice Emilio A. Gancayco**; children **Efren** and **Mian**, **Annie** and **Lito**, **Tony** and **Ongie**, **Sonny** and **Vicky**, **Pablo** and **Dot**; grandchildren **Thrina**, **Tootsie**, **Joao** and **Jig**, **Olive**, **Raymond** and **Ann**, **Lauren**, **Lucky** and **Joseph**, **Jon-jon** and **Mika**; brothers **Jaime** (+), **Manuel**; and sister **Mate**; sister-in-law **Luz** and their children, other relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at Premier I of the Loyola Memorial Chapels, Guadalupe, wherein Holy Masses will be held 8:00 p.m. daily.

Funeral Mass will be celebrated on Saturday, July 13, 2002 at 9:30 a.m. at the Parish of the Holy Sacrifice, UP Diliman, Quezon City.

Interment will immediately follow at Loyola Memorial Park, Marikina City.

Our Dearly Beloved Mamang MARIA NANETTE C. VILLAMIL

of Dagupan City and Alaminos City

Peacefully joined our Lord on July 5, 2002 at the age of 76.

Her loving husband Francisco Sr. (+), children Delta and Mariano, Rodolfo and Zenilda, Zosimo and Luz, Francisco Jr. (+) and Arnel, Angelo and Minnie, Benito (+), Blesita and Reynaldo, Lamberto and Ofelia, Cecoy and Rhodilyn, Donar (+); grandchildren and great grandchildren, remember her with love and request for her repose.

Her remains lie in state at Chapel B of La Funeralia Paz, Arameta Avenue, Quezon City.

Interment will be on Thursday, July 11, 2002 at Manila Memorial Park, Sucra, Paranaque after the 9:00 a.m. Mass.

2nd Death Anniversary GABRIELA BAGA ELEOSIDA PRESENTACION BAGA BAUTISTA

BATAK, HOCOS NORIE and KIDAPAWAN CITY

Masses will be offered on July 6, 2002 at

Our Lady Mediatrix of all Graces, 5:45 AM
 Kidapawan City
 Immaculate Conception, 10:00 AM
 Vista Verde Church Road
 Our Lady of Della Estrada, Quezon City, 6:00 AM
 St. Anne, Laguna Metro Manila, 6:00 AM
 Santuario de San Jose, Generala, 6:00 AM

An obituary with a picture can be a fitting tribute to your departed loved one.

INQUIRER OBITUARIES

DEATH ANNOUNCEMENT • MESSAGE OF THANKS DEATH ANNIVERSARY • REQUIEMS • FREE OBIT DESIGN

For the needs of your departed Loved Ones, the following establishments can help you.

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12-914, 12-915, 12-916, 12-917, 12-918, 12-919, 12-920, 12-921, 12-922, 12-923, 12-924, 12-925, 12-926, 12-927, 12-928, 12-929, 12-930, 12-931, 12-932, 12-933, 12-934, 12-935, 12-936, 12-937, 12-938, 12-939, 12-940, 12-941, 12-942, 12-943, 12-944, 12-945, 12-946, 12-947, 12-948, 12-949, 12-950, 12-951, 12-952, 12-953, 12-954, 12-955, 12-956, 12-957, 12-958, 12-959, 12-960, 12-961, 12-962, 12-963, 12-964, 12-965, 12-966, 12-967, 12-968, 12-969, 12-970, 12-971, 12-972, 12-973, 12-974, 12-975, 12-976, 12-977, 12-978, 12-979, 12-980, 12-981, 12-982, 12-983, 12-984, 12-985, 12-986, 12-987, 12-988, 12-989, 12-990, 12-991, 12-992, 12-993, 12-994, 12-995, 12-996, 12-997, 12-998, 12-999, 13-000, 13-001, 13-002, 13-003, 13-004, 13-005, 13-006, 13-007, 13-008, 13-009, 13-010, 13-011, 13-012, 13-013, 13-014, 13-015, 13-016, 13-017, 13-018, 13-019, 13-020, 13-021, 13-022, 13-023, 13-024, 13-025, 13-026, 13-027, 13-028, 13-029, 13-030, 13-031, 13-032, 13-033, 13-034, 13-035, 13-036, 13-037, 13-038, 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People, Events & Products

Aries Espinosa, Editor

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Pfizer intensifies info drive to battle disease

PFIZER INC. intensified its information drive against diseases and illnesses when it recently launched the website of the Philippine College of Physicians (PCP). The PCP website (www.pcp.org.ph) is one of the 27 medical societies supported by Pfizer through its Website Partnership Project.

"Pfizer pledges its support and commitment to continuing medical education through the development of the PCP website," stated Danny S. Chiong, Pfizer's sales director, to some 4,000 doctors at the PCP website launch held during the organization's annual convention.

As with the other medical society websites it has helped launch, part of Pfizer's partnership agreement with the PCP entails sponsoring the development, hosting and maintenance of the PCP website, in order to generate awareness of the PCP's ideals in the practice of Internal Medicine and their goal of providing a resource of education and information to all internists.

This disease and illness awareness campaign partnership program is viewed as a complementary action to the clinical work being done in more than 20 laboratories worldwide as part of Pfizer's over \$5-billion investment on research and development. The goal is to find more cures as well as help alleviate the suffering of millions of people afflicted with various diseases.

The PCP is an organization of physicians that sets the highest standards and ethical ideals in the practice of Internal Medicine and provides dynamic leadership in the promotion of health and quality of life in the management of disease and in the formulation of relevant health policies.

Pfizer is a global, research-based healthcare company that discovers, develops, manufactures, and markets innovative medicines for humans and animals, and many of the best-known consumer products.



GREPALIFE TOP AWARDEES FOR 2001

The Grepalife top national awardees for 2001 stand in recognition after receiving their awards from company president and CEO Alfredo C. Antonio (5th from left) during ceremonies at the Westin Philippine Plaza. Also joining the awardees is EVP Edgardo S. Franco (right). Grepalife is a flagship company of the Yuchengco Group and is among the top ten life insurance providers in the country today.

DLSU-D searches for Gawad Bayani

DE LA SALLE University-Dasmariñas (DLSU-D) is once again embarking on its annual search for outstanding Caviteños. Now on its 11th year, the search is centered on Caviteños who have committed themselves to service and are living models of Lasallian values.

The university is accepting nominations for all qualified individuals or groups. The winner will be granted the Gawad Bayani Award at the university's annual commencement exercise.

For more details get in touch with the Office of the Vice President for Academics, De La Salle University-Dasmariñas 4115 or call (02) 844-7832 local 3003 or (046) 416-4435.



CAKE COMPETITION

The Philippine Federation of Bakers' Association Inc. (PFBAI) and the Filipino-Chinese Bakery Association Inc. (FCBAI) recently signed a project endorsement agreement with Actron Industries Inc., supplier of top-quality bakery ingredients, and Trade Information Marketing and Exhibitions Inc., organizer of AsiaFood Expo for the launching of the Bakersfield National Cake Decorating Competition. Signing the agreement are (from left) Joseph Solco, sales director, Bakersfield Division, Actron Industries Inc.,

Annie Bersaluna, trade promotions director, TIME, Wilson Ng, president, FCBAI, Manny Duenas, president and CEO, Actron Industries, Leonardo Figueroa, executive national vice president, PFBAI, and Nena Martinez, executive director of PFBAI in behalf of Bartolome Hermosura Sr., national president of PFBAI. The highlight of the event will be at the Asia Food Expo 2002 from Sept. 4 to 7 at the World Trade Center Metro Manila. Managing the event is WEV Creativ, a division of Actron Industries.

PCDef recognizes achievers in diabetes management

THE PHILIPPINE Center for Diabetes Education Foundation Inc. (PCDef), in cooperation with GlaxoSmithKline (GSK), announces the awarding date of the "Search for the Diabetes Management Achievers" in line with PCDef's 10th anniversary and the Diabetes Awareness Week in July.

The search is PCDef's and GSK's way of recognizing diabetes patients successfully managing their disease through strict adherence to their treatment. Nominees and winners will serve as role models to other diabetics who aspire to be stronger than their disease and lead a better quality of life.

The search is open to all diabetes patients who have successfully managed their condition for at least 10 years. Medallions await chosen patients. A bronze pin will be given to patients who have bested diabetes for 10 to 19 years; a silver pin for those between 20 and 29 years; and a gold medallion for those who have successfully managed their diabetes for 30 years or more.

Requirements for the nomination are documentation

containing the date of diagnosis, a photocopy of the patient's medical history and current medical record, a letter from the doctor who made the original diagnosis, and the patient's personal diary on diabetes management.

Nominations were submitted to the PCDef office at Room 366, Diabetes Education Clinic, Makati Medical Center, Makati City. The awarding ceremonies will be held on July 28 at the Glorietta Activity Center in Makati City.

Diabetes, especially Type 2 diabetes, is a major public health concern in both developing and developed countries in the Asia Pacific region. The World Health Organization (WHO) has reported the current number of people with diabetes in the region to be an estimated 30 million. The WHO report said diabetes can be prevented and the progression of many complications associated with the disease can be halted. PCDef also stressed education and proper management as every diabetes patient's best defense against the disease. Other needs include appropriate diet, physical activity and maintaining healthy body weight.



SWI PASAY ROAD AT 4

Slimmers World Pasay Road Center celebrated its 4th anniversary with a bang as it held an aerobics marathon Caribbean Style. Friends who supported this event were Reebok, Fly Ace, Don Henricos, Congo Grille, San Mig Pub, Maggi Cup Noodles, Kellogg's, Sweetlink, Lipovitan, Bomba, Bioderm, Newtex, Countrystyle, Sunlife, Dole, Timex, Wendy's, Splash, Sbarro, Manly, Rebisco, Magoo's Pizza, Anchor, Dusit Hotel, Ford, and AIG.

Product FILES

Feel right at home, Kabayan

KABAYAN Hotel, designed to fit the Filipino taste, lifestyle and preferences, is the most practical venue for your accommodation needs. Rates are super economical and ranges from as low as P299 per person for an overnight accommodation inclusive of breakfast.

Accredited by the Department of Tourism as a three-star hotel, it is managed by the Legend Hotels International and boasts of a mix of 79 hotel rooms and 30 family rooms which can house 174 in a dormitory setup.

This is the first of its kind in the Philippines. It is, so far, the only hotel built with a dormitory and hotel setup in the 3-star category.

Kabayan Hotel is strategically located at the heart of Pasay City along Edsa corner Zamora Street. It is near the International and Domestic Airports, and also accessible to the seaport. It is in between the country's two major rail transits, the MRT and LRT, and bus stations are just within the vicinity.

The hotel also offers a Business Center with Internet services, entertainment lounge for Dorm users, and 5-star quality hotel service. For reservations and more details, call 891-7878 or 834-5592.



ZOIDS EVOLUTION WINNERS

Winners in the Zoids Evolution contest received their prizes during award rites held at the West Avenue branch of Don Henrico's in Quezon City. The month-long competition involved customizing new figures and characters from existing Zoids scale models. Shown with Don Henrico's mascot, from left, are John Melchor (third place), Melvin Acabado (first), Kirby Lao (second), Ban Kee Trading president Eric C. Bautista, Ban Kee Trading general manager Nancy Gotamco, and Don Henrico's franchise owner Heidi Ng. In front is Michael Gotamco.



LUCKY 'STAMPEDE' WINNER

Shown at left receiving his prize from Asia Brewery's Jun Alcantara, AVP for marketing, is Joseph Dagaas Jr., 29, of Sta. Mesa, Manila, now a proud owner of a special edition Ford Ranger Stampede pick-up that he won in the nationwide Colt 45 'Prize Stampede' under-the-crown

promotion. In the background is the MMRV store near Araneta Avenue, Quezon City, where the Colt 45 with the winning crown was purchased. Two other Colt 45 bottles capped with crowns yielding a similar prize are now in retail stores awaiting other lucky Colt 45 beer drinkers.

Lourdes '67 hosts dinner

FATHER Jose Arrieta will be the special guest at an informal dinner and get-together hosted by the Lourdes School Quezon City batch '67. The Jinx and Bluebirds groups, which comprise the class, will also be feted at the reunion with songs from their classmates Rey and Cesar Quiazon and Bobby Verzosa. Registration starts at 7 p.m. on Friday, July 12. All former classmates are invited. For particulars, call Rey Quiazon at 410-2804 or Ada Deleon at 931-1065, 0916-4837758.

Wild Vines last call

CALLING food stylists, certified kitcheners and freelance culinary artists. Wild Vines, the exciting new taste in wines, challenges you to a food styling competition. Join "Wild Vines Wines and Dreams" for a chance to entice the expert taste buds of renowned figures in the culinary arts. Whip up a fabulous hors d'oeuvres to complement your favorite flavor of Wild Vines. Choose from Strawberry White Zinfandel, Blackberry Merlot, Peach Chardonnay or Raspberry Zinfandel, and pair up Wild Vines with your creation. Fill up an entry form and review the guidelines for the competition. Each participant is required to submit an essay expressing their aspirations. Look out for Wild Vines' posters for more details, or call Executive Decisions at 413-6436/37, 448-5396/98. Deadline of submission of entries is July 13.

Goodwill's 'Iskolar'

GOODWILL Bookstore launched June 12 its back-to-school promo Iskolar ng Goodwill at the SM North Edsa. This promo runs until July 15 and offers shoppers the opportunity to win one of the 10 P100,000 scholarship fund and gift certificate packages for every P300 purchase of books, novelty items, office and school supplies from any Goodwill Bookstore branch nationwide.



AFABLE SWEARS IN COMM SOCIETY OFFICERS

The Philippine Communication Society, a multi-disciplinary group of communication professionals and practitioners, has a new set of officers. Acting Press Secretary and Presidential Management head Silvestre C. Afable inducted the officers and members of the board, headed by Dr. Mary Editha Dy, department head of Miriam College of Communication Arts. The other officers are Gerry Josue, vice president, Betty Lou S

Penara, secretary, Mary Grace V. Agoncillo, treasurer, Belen P. Dayaoun, PRO, and Alice Villadolid, auditor. The board is composed of communication experts like Gen. Jaime Canatoy, Dr. Teresa Stuart, Dr. Felix Librero, Armi Budomo, Dr. Divina T. Pasumbal, Dr. Zenaida Domingo, Jose Pavia, Rey Hulog, and Dr. Fior Angel Rosario Braid, Dr. Ibarra Gonzalez, and Dr. Rene Gulogulo as ex-officio members.

BUSINESS

Benpres selling 10% stake in MNTC

By Doris C. Dumlaog
and Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

BENPRES Holdings Corp. is negotiating to sell a 10-percent stake in Manila North Tollways Corp. to Australian firm Leighton Contractors Asia Ltd.

In an interview, Benpres chief finance officer Angel Ong confirmed that Benpres was talking to Leighton for a minority stake in MNTC.

MNTC is currently undertaking the \$500-million North Luzon Expressway rehabilitation project.

In another interview, presidential assistant for regional develop-

ment in North Luzon Renato Diaz said MNTC's creditors had asked Benpres to get a more stable subsidiary to back up a loan syndicate in view of its precarious financial situation.

Diaz said creditors led by the Asian Development Bank made this a prerequisite before releasing a syndicated \$252-million loan for the rehabilitation and expansion of the North Luzon expressway in view of Benpres' serious cash problems.

Benpres, which owns half of First Philippine Infrastructure Development Corp.'s 60-percent stake in MNTC, failed last week to make in-

terest payments on P2 billion worth of long-term commercial papers.

Benpres also did not meet its monthly dues on these papers and on \$150 million worth of Eurobonds last month.

Benpres has to pay \$200 million in maturing debts this year.

Benpres is seeking to reschedule all its \$596.9 million worth of debts, sell stakes in "non-core" subsidiaries and further tighten its belt to restore its financial health.

Diaz said Benpres proposed to get its 47-percent-owned First Philippine Holdings Corp. to "sponsor" the deal because it had more solid assets and was in a

better financial position.

He expressed confidence that MNTC would start drawing down on the loans in five months.

MNTC's creditors are careful in releasing the loan package because the Macapagal administration has declined to guarantee the toll developer's obligations.

The government, however, assured that creditors would be allowed to take over the toll way should MNTC default on its loans.

Apart from the ADB, which will contribute \$45 million to the loan syndicate, MNTC's lenders include the International Finance Corp., which is set to lend \$45

million; Export Finance and Insurance Corp. of Australia, \$55 million; Multilateral Investment Guarantee Agency, \$52.5215 million; and, Coface \$55 million.

The financing package is the last remaining hump in the implementation of the 84-km project, which has already been delayed for seven years.

Diaz reported that the government had paid some P800 million—P500 million coming from the Bases Conversion Development Authority—for the acquisition of right-of-way land along the expressway.

The expropriation package

covered 153 titles over a total of 40 hectares.

MNTC is building and rehabilitating 14 interchanges, 24 bridges and 31 overpasses from the Balintawak to the Sta. Ines tollways, which will connect Manila with the Clark Special Economic Zone.

The project will provide an inter-connection to the Subic Freeport zone through the 8.8-km expressway built in 1996.

Apart from the FPIC, the owners of MNTC are Philippine National Construction Corp., which owns 20 percent, and the Egis group of France, 20 percent. *With a report from Elena R. Torrijos*

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BCDA keeps hands off PLDT corporate battle

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

THE BASES Conversion Development Authority (BCDA), a 45 percent owner of the Fort Bonifacio Development Corp. (FBDC), has taken a hands-off policy in the raging corporate duel between Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. president Manuel V. Pangilinan and taipan John Gokongwei.

In an interview, BCDA president Rufo Colayco said the BCDA has no preference over whether Pangilinan would remain as its partner or Gokongwei would take over the duty of charting the development of the Fort Bonifacio Global City.

"It doesn't matter who will be the last man standing between the two groups as long as the issue is resolved soon and that the FBDC moves forward with its development plans for the Global City," Colayco said. "I personally think one could develop the property better than the other but I'm not telling who."

Gokongwei has tendered an all-or-nothing offer to the Salim family of Indonesia, the controlling shareholder of First Pacific Co., to acquire its prized Philippine assets.

Under the proposed deal, Gokongwei would pay a premium to get the Hong Kong firm's 24.4-percent interest in PLDT while snaring its 55-percent stake in FBDC (under Bonifacio Land Corp.) at a steep discount.

The deal, however, is on hold as Pangilinan staunchly opposed the takeover bid by putting up legal landmines to delay Gokongwei's entry while preparing his own management-led counter-offer with the help of PLDT shareholders and other business allies.

RP outpaces Asia in mobile phone use

By Abigail L. Ho

CELLULAR phones would remain one of the Filipino's favorite accessories, but they are no longer willing to spend as much to use it.

Brokerage house F. Yap Securities Inc. said in its June 30 report that the country's cellular penetration rate was seen shooting up to 14 percent by the end of the year, outpacing the Asian average of 9.25 percent.

Globe Telecom GMCR Inc., however, reported a decrease in its average revenue per pre-paid subscriber to P424 during the first quarter from P444 the previous quarter, indicating a waning appetite to use the cellular phones due to cost concerns.

"(Globe's) prepaid ARPU has been sliding due to increased usage of short messaging service (SMS). The decline may be attributed to the full impact of the reduction in allotted free SMS in January as subscribers reduced usage of voice (to keep) monthly expenses within means," the report said.

Globe Telecom slashed the number of its free text messages from the original 150 to 100 in October last year and then to 50 last January.

Smart, on the other hand, maintained its average revenue at P500 per prepaid subscriber and P2,000 per postpaid subscriber.

DoE awards exploration contract to Japanese firm

By Ronnel W. Domingo

THE ENERGY Department has awarded an oil and gas exploration contract covering the Visayas petroleum basin to Japan Petroleum Exploration Co.

Energy Secretary Vincent Perez Jr., who is abroad on official business, said in a statement that the awarding of Geophysical Survey and Exploration Contract No. 102 to the Japanese firm boosted the country's efforts to attract more foreign investments in the country.

"This only proves the great potential of the Philippines as an investment site in the oil and gas sectors," Perez said.

GSEC 102 gives Japex 18 months to conduct geophysical surveying activities at a projected cost of P10 million. The contract would be automatically extended by another 18 months if Japex decides to drill an exploratory well that would cost about P150 million.

Japex operates 19 oil fields in Northern Japan, which produce a combined 22,000 barrels of oil a day. It is also involved in other projects in Southeast Asia, the Middle East and the Americas.

GSEC 102 is the second foreign exploration project under the Macapagal administration. The first one was GSEC 101, covering the Reed Bank area north of Palawan.

BUSINESSMonday

Business Features Editor Margie Quimpo-Espino

Going into the global market? Time to learn a language

By Leah Salterio

ENTREPRENEURS normally invest their money on a restaurant or garment business. Very few will stake their millions in getting

a franchise for an international language school.

But six individuals with common interests dauntlessly entered into a business venture to put up the Berlitz Language Center,

which offers a distinct method in learning a new language.

Berlitz has been distinguished for over a century now for its excellence in language instruction. Founded in 1878 in Rhode Island,

USA by German national Maximilian Berlitz, the center has an American franchise based in Princeton, New Jersey, and over 400 other branches in 60 countries to date.

Five business groups from the Philippines, including the Gokongweis, reportedly expressed their interest in the Berlitz franchise.

But it was the group led by

Renato Constantino Jr., son of the nationalist and educator with the same name, which bagged the local franchise for Berlitz.

Constantino, refuses to disclose

GOING/ C2

Exec makes staff feel comfortable so they can make guests feel at home

By Anne Luisa E. Villarico

A CHIEF executive working in a hotel not only deals with products but with people away from home, thus it is his duty to make them feel comfortable.

On top of administrative matters, a hotel CEO's duty includes making people who are away from their homes feel comfortable.

The homey feeling, however, should not only be felt by the hotel's guests but also by the staff who provides the service.



COGUL

"Everybody in the chain is as important as the one ahead of him so you have to make the employees feel comfortable," says Spaniard John Cogul, CEO of Barcelo Hotels and Resorts for Asia & Pacific.

MANAGEMENT STYLE!



Cogul says if you make employees feel comfortable at work, the aura of warm hospitality will be transmitted to the customers.

Feelings

"Otherwise, it could become difficult to keep that fake smile in your face when you are providing service," he explains.

A good manager, he adds, must be adept at dealing with people's feelings and sentiments.

"I like to know everything that happens in the hotel, so I like to know what people are doing first hand. For example, I check what the waitress is thinking or what the front officer is eating... even the security guard. Why not?" says Cogul.

He understands that staff members can be burdened with problems at times which can affect their moods.

He wants his managers to be sensitive to this so he takes care of them and shows that he is sincerely interested in their well being.

The 45-year-old Cogul knows what it is like to be at the bottom of the ranks since he started out as a bellboy at the Hotel Salo in Costa Dorada, Golden Coast, Spain, when he was just 14.

It was his first summer job and over the next two summers, he worked as a doorman and front officer on the night shift. He continued working for the hotel while finishing his law degree at the University of Navarra.

He went for further studies, finishing a Master's degree in Business Administration and another degree in European Integration and International Studies. He also worked as an auditing officer with the rank of colonel in the Spanish army.

Cogul is fluent in Spanish, English, French, Italian, German and Russian with some knowledge of Mandarin.

He says the facility with these languages gives him the advantage when speaking to persons of other nationalities because it makes them feel more comfortable, making them feel instantly at home.

New post

Cogul started his career in Barcelo Hotels as managing director for expansion and corporate development in Spain before he was appointed as the new executive vice president and CEO for Asia & Pacific in May last year.

He says his new post forced him to change his way of thinking to suit the peculiarities of each region or country.

"You cannot act the same way when you are in China and the Philippines, so you have to be competent. I learn a lot from different backgrounds, I adapt to new situations," Cogul says.

Cogul finds himself learning more about the Philippines after the Barcelo group decided to make the country its headquarters for Asia & Pacific in May last year due to its strategic location.

Cogul says setting up the office here makes it easier for the Barcelo group to communicate with neighboring Asian countries, unlike before when the group's headquarters was in Shanghai, China.

He adds that being exposed to different cultures makes him a more flexible and stronger person, which he wants his staff to follow.

Gaining experience from the military, Cogul also wants to instill discipline among his staff. He even considers prohibiting the use of mobile phones, including text messaging, during office hours.

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CEOs should live the values they preach

(This is the first installment of a two-part series on corporate governance. This is an abridged version of a paper presented by the authors at a forum organized by the Management Association of the Philippines.)

THERE are many ways to define the conditions necessary for a healthy economy. But the three fundamental conditions for a successful business environment in any country over the long term are: 1) the rule of law, 2) the free flow of information, and 3) the discipline of failure.

These form the foundation upon which any effective structure of corporate governance must rest. For any corporate governance model to work, there must be a predictable rule of law and free access to information—a "level playing field" upon which businesses can compete fairly.

In addition, what we call the discipline of failure—the cold, harsh reality that bad decisions, poor quality, or outright corruption, can lead to bankruptcy or even jail and where creditors will be fairly and even-handedly protected by the law—is a vitally important feature of an environment of accountability.

At its most basic level, corporate governance is about securing the rights of shareholders—the owners of the enterprise—including minority shareholders.

Indeed, the Supreme Court has

explicitly stated that "there cannot be any doubt that (the) character (of directors of a private corporation) is that of a fiduciary insofar as the corporation and the stockholders as a body are concerned."

The Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) in Paris has published a five-part set of "Principles of Corporate Governance," the first two parts of which are dedicated to the rights of shareholders.

Protecting shareholders' rights is an area where the Board of Directors is most important—it is the body responsible for the representation of all shareholders. The Philippines' own brand-new "Code of Corporate Governance," recently promulgated by the SEC, similarly recites a list of specific rights of shareholders that the Board of Directors must be "committed to respect."

While the government can help facilitate a favorable environment, at the core of corporate governance is a shared belief within the business community—and within each company itself—in certain values. Values that are lived by people in business, and values that are embedded in the processes of running their businesses.

These values can be described in many ways: integrity, transparency, openness, independence, access to information, respect for

MAPPING THE FUTURE



By Jose Jesus U. Deduque and Walter W. Bardenwerper

employees, accountability, checks and balances, and respect for the law. But these values will not take hold; they will not flourish without two absolutely necessary conditions:

First, they have to be lived by the CEO and the board, day-to-day, through the countless actions and decisions the CEO or the Board take.

Employees and investors—like voters in a democracy—are shrewd and insightful—they may not see hollowness or hypocrisy immediately, especially if cleverly disguised in attractive packaging by an effective corporate PR machine, but they will see it eventually.

By the same token, management can also send out clear, or even subtle, messages of what its values are in ways they may not even realize.

The second condition is that values must be embedded in process. From the way a CEO and a

board of directors interact, to the way individual employee grievances are handled, there must be a set of workable processes. Let's look at how values get embedded in processes, starting from the top of the organization.

Board of directors

More than any other single feature of good corporate governance is an effective board of directors. For publicly held companies, this generally means a largely, if not wholly, independent board.

The board has a number of vital responsibilities, all of which require that it be comprised of competent, independent-minded people, adequately informed and given a sufficient opportunity to consider and act.

These include (1) guiding corporate strategy, (2) reviewing annual budgets and business plans, (3) overseeing major capital expenditures, (4) selecting outside auditors and monitoring their performance, (5) monitoring and updating corporate governance itself, and overseeing financial systems and management compliance with law, (6) assuring that management and the board avoid conflicts of interest and self-dealing, and (7) select-

ing the CEO, reviewing his or her performance, setting compensation and developing a succession plan.

CEO pay and performance

One of the two most important board functions is evaluation of the CEO's own performance.

But CEO review is potentially tricky: The truly secure and effective CEO will recognize the job the board has to do, provide input at the appropriate times so that the board has the CEO's perspective on his own performance.

Moreover, he will ensure an atmosphere where the board can evaluate his performance objectively.

The CEO's performance (and of his principal direct reports) should be tied to a definitive statement of objectives.

At Watson Wyatt, we use what we call the PDP (Performance Development Planning) process. Our CEO is required by the board to have a performance development plan, just like every other employee.

The Compensation Committee and the board also have a duty to understand and challenge proposed executive pay structures. If something doesn't "smell right," the compensation committee cannot stand back and assume someone else will make it right.

If the next aspect of good governance has been established,

neither the board nor the CEO should find much to be surprised about in the CEO's evaluation or bonus discussion.

Transparency

And that next aspect is transparency. There are real components of transparency, and they emerge from a set of core values that trace their roots to basic integrity. So what do we actually mean by transparency?

• It means plain, easy to understand financial statements.

• It means clear, forthright disclosures of material transactions and events.

• It means good news being delivered without hype and bad news being delivered without rose-colored glasses.

• It means encouraging an atmosphere where the directors ask questions, where CFOs are not allowed to set up devious financial vehicles to obscure debt or pump up earnings.

• It means telling investors, bankers, employees and the government the essential truth about their company—enough truth so that they know what the company's mission is and whether it is on course.

(Jose Jesus U. Deduque is the managing director of Watson Wyatt Philippines. Walter W. Bardenwerper is the general counsel of Watson Wyatt & Company Holdings.)

E-mail MAP at mapsec@globenet.com.ph.)

Going into the global . . .

From page C1

the amount that he and his business partners pooled to put up the Berlitz Center in the Philippines. They incorporated last year and formally opened the center last March at the second floor of Peninsula Court Building on the corner of Paseo de Roxas and Makati Avenue in Makati City.

Constantino acts as the chair of the board. Wilson Go, an IBM executive and a Certified Public Accountant (CPA), is president. Dr. Alfred Tong from Ateneo and multi-media businessman Norbert Chinguanco are vice presidents. Rita Kaw, who runs a pre-school in Binondo, is treasurer.

Constantino's daughter, Marika Constantino-Garcia, acts as language center director and general manager.

Asked why they invested in a language center, Constantino reasons out, "Language is a very important tool for communicating and in getting ahead. We believe this is an opportune time to bring the global reach and background of Berlitz to the Philippines."

Go adds, "A language center is needed by the economy and the government. We put up Berlitz in support of the government's objective to make the Philippines as the call center of Asia."

Berlitz boasts of an impressive alumni that includes business tycoon Lee Iacocca, world leaders Francois Mitterrand and John F. Kennedy, and even Hollywood stars such as Marlon Brando, Antonio Banderas and Meryl Streep.

Constantino, who has communications and marketing management backgrounds says, "We don't just offer language courses, but also cross-cultural training. It's not just language instruction. We focus on oral proficiency so you will have the confidence to verbalize."

Since it opened last March, Berlitz has attracted a mix of foreign and local students, including ex-pats.

The wide range of Berlitz language study programs also caters to travelers, business executives, students and children.

"Anyone who has the motivation to learn a new language can also enroll," Constantino says. "We don't impose an accent. It's an exercise in communication skill and the adaptability of the tongue to the accent. As long as you can be understood, that's the most important thing."

The oldest student is a 73-year-old Japanese lady who is taking up Spanish because she plans to relocate in Costa del Sol in Spain.

Father and son businessmen Tom and Geoff Chavez who do regular dealings in China, enrolled in the Mandarin class. They attest they now have a good command of the Chinese language, which allows them to order in a restaurant, communicate through common phrases or understand simple instructions.

"We were at the Bangkok airport once and when an announcement in Chinese was made, we understood it and we knew it was our flight being called," Geoff shares.

Even Constantino himself is now learning how to speak in Mandarin.



RITA Kaw, Dr. Alfred Tong, Norbert Chinguanco, Wilson Go, Renato Constantino Jr., Marika Constantino-Garcia



PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo gets Mandarin lessons from Berlitz instructor, Fran Yap. With her are Robert Fitts from the US Embassy, DTI Sec. Mar Roxas II and Renato Constantino Jr.

The Berlitz Philippine franchise services one of the biggest call centers in the country by giving English language course to its operators.

Berlitz also gives Mandarin language course to the executives and children of a local marketing company.

The language center recently accommodated teachers from Makati public high schools for a three-week crash course in English comprehension and vocabulary. The training was financed by Edu-Quest, a company which provides education enablement, and subsidized by the Makati government.

"It's part of the vision of Makati to make the city progressive starting with education," Go says.

At Berlitz, everything is standardized. "No other language school in the country has everything incorporated from the manuals to the student records," Constantino brags. "All our materials are by Berlitz or authorized by Berlitz. That's where the investment goes to."

The high-quality standard of language learning at Berlitz makes it understandable why the center charges fees which are not competitive.

"When it comes to rates, we don't compete with the existing language schools in the country," Constantino says. "They don't have anything near the range of what we can offer."

A 50-unit language course at Berlitz costs P30,800 which covers tuition, registration, materials and taxes. A class of six students requires two units per session. The first level of the course will ideally be completed in three months.

Garcia, who is an art history graduate from the University of the Philippines with a background in architecture, says the rates apply to all languages. The only difference is in the number of lessons to finish one level. Make-up class is done individually at P2,200 per session.

Garcia notes the motivation to learn a second language is a practical one. "It can be a life-enhancing experience," she says. "It makes you part of a much larger world. By using language to bridge gaps around you, it makes you more accepting of others."

Berlitz has over 30 local and foreign instructors who are fluent in their respective languages and have well-rounded backgrounds.

"We maintain a non-threatening environment inside the classrooms so the students will not be intimidated to learn," says Gerry Se, a French language instructor who majored in European Languages from the University of the Philippines.

Paris Murray, a native of Minnesota who is married to a Cebuana, teaches English which has the most number of students.

To ensure the quality of learning, the instructors are required to write reports and do level checks on students. The pedagogical card determines the student's progress.

The language units earned in Manila can also be credited in Berlitz centers in other countries, says Constantino.

Yet, it's not just language learning. Berlitz also offers an accent reduction course with specific programs.

"You can learn or unlearn certain peculiarities you acquired in speaking a particular language," Constantino says.

Meanwhile, the total immersion for eight hours with three teachers, is the fastest way to start speaking in a new language, according to Constantino.

"Eventually, we also want to make an investment to create a course for local dialects, starting perhaps with Cebuano," Constantino says.

Berlitz plans to expand its operations in the Philippines by putting up branches in the key cities or offering satellite learning to some schools.

Making sure each employee gets the formula for change

By Larry Chao
Contributor

AS THE doors open and 400 participants enter the darkened ballroom, a dozen dancers dressed in black greet them, gyrating to the rhythmic beat of Queen's "We Will Rock You." Laser lights flicker across the walls and floor, creating a dramatic effect. Minutes later, the music fades and the lights brighten, signaling the beginning of the conference.

No, this is not the opening of a concert. It is the launch of Mead Johnson Philippines corporate game plan for 2002, dubbed "Innovate to Dominate." During this one-day event last month, all MJP employees learned about the company's strategies and change programs that will drive its business over the next couple of years.

"We invited all our employees to share in understanding the new direction of our company," explained Kasper P. Jakobsen, MJP's 40-year-old president, who took the helm last June. He used to be Mead Johnson International's global marketing director based in Thailand, responsible for marketing strategies outside the United States.

"While MJP management developed the strategies and supporting change programs, we could not accomplish our objectives without the commitment and energy of our whole company. 400 heads are better than one."

Underlying this unconventional conference opening is the need to do things differently—to focus only on activities crucial to the success of the business. Jakobsen begins the conference by reviewing first quarter results,

which have exceeded target. But, he warns, past success does not guarantee future success. He then spells out the company's new strategic priorities and five supporting change programs that span across MJP's \$100-million business.

During the rest of the day, participants are divided into separate groups and rotate through five rooms, each room set up to provide a learning experience that demonstrates the need for each change program. "Our aim was to bring the change programs to life by having participants learn by doing," said Jakobsen. By the end of the day, everyone has a picture about why each program is important and what the company is doing to ensure their success.

Mobilizing workers with this launch, however, was only one step in MJP's change journey. Behind this launch was a rigorous step-by-step planning process aimed at creating hard hitting change programs that would drive MJP's strategies.

"Strategy must guide the development of organization change programs the whole way through," said Jakobsen. "Otherwise you lose focus and become distracted by activities that do not affect what your business is trying to achieve."

This is the fate of many organization change efforts, where strategy is poorly tied with change programs, creating a gap between expectations and execution. To be effective, strategy and change programs need to be inextricably linked.

In MJP's case, strategy served as the foundation on which they designed their entire organization change effort.

MJP's change journey began late last year when its board of directors defined the key strategic initiatives. With these initiatives in place, the next step was to involve broader management in developing the change programs supporting these initiatives.

Much emphasis was placed on developing programs in three areas: growth, productivity and developing people capabilities. For example, successful product innovations within the company's core infant formula business have contributed significantly to sales growth. The question is how can MJP discover more of these growth engines and quickly introduce them into the market?

Gains in productivity such as reducing product returns from customers represented another opportunity. Last year nearly \$2 million were spent in product write-offs, a big chunk of this coming from product returns.

With respect to people development, efforts to open up greater two-way communication in a culture that has historically preserved the chain of command is the challenge, according to the MJP's human resources director Thelma Meneses.

By defining clear strategies, aligning change programs and mobilizing his entire workforce, Jakobsen and his team have created a focused organization change effort. "There is no shortage of enthusiasm and spirit in our company," said Jakobsen. "The challenge is to harness this energy in specific areas that can have significant impact on our business."

(The author is the managing director of Chao Group, a strategic organization change and executive training firm.)

Wanted on Wall St.: Internal policemen

NEW YORK—Wall Street is scrambling to hire internal cops, even as overall payrolls are slashed to get costs in line with shrinking post-boom revenues.

Compliance officers, who make sure firms comply with securities regulations, used to be looked at as a bunch of dusty drones toiling in obscurity in back rooms.

But now, they're a hot growth industry. Banks are looking to raid each others' staffs, and even traders who used to pocket millions of dollars a year are considering switching careers amid the stock market slump.

"For the first time, I see traders asking, how can I go into compliance?" said Jack Kelly, managing director of ComplianceJobs.com, a division of executive search firm Taft Associates Inc.

Demand for compliance officers is up because banks need to comply with the new regulations, like laws to stop money-laundering and the new US Patriot Act,

which aims to cut off money flows to extremist groups after the Sept. 11 attacks.

The gist of these laws is that brokers need to make more checks on their customers to void being used for illegal schemes.

Another factor driving the hiring boom is a steady stream of probes into alleged wrongdoing on Wall Street, from charges of crooked IPO trading and analyst conflicts of interests to back-door deals with companies that imploded like Enron and WorldCom.

"It's not one of those glamorous jobs and was not in high regard, but now they are given the respect that they deserve," said Rita Kohn, of Stamford, Connecticut, recruiting firm Dawn Taylor Associates, who saw an upswing in the compliance area, mainly from top-tier firms. "There is a lot of pressure on them to protect the interests of the firm, and navigate it through the choppy environment."

Reuters

TAX-FILES

Erratum

IN last week's Tax Files column on FCDU accounts, the INQUIRER said that FCDU returns were no longer filed.

The paragraph should have read "Under existing regulations, banks are required to file an income tax return for its RBU and another ITR for its FCDU in respect of FCDU income. However, with the implementation of the Integrated Tax System and the policy of "one TIN and one income tax return per taxpayer," said practice of separate filing has caused the suspension of FCDU returns in the ITS or has resulted to unnecessary system generated assessment notices."

"This as subsequently determined, is due to the inability of the ITS to distinguish the variation in the tax treatment and the applicable tax rate."

Apologies to SGV & Co.

Net dad says WorldCom scandal won't stall services

By Joey G. Alarilla
INQ7.net

EVEN as the almost \$4-billion accounting irregularities of US telecom giant WorldCom is rocking the corporate world and global stock markets, the "Father of the Internet" assured that the firm's troubles will not affect the operation of the Internet.

"The company is fully committed to maintaining the secure and stable operation of its portion of the Internet. The recently announced reduction in force has taken that commitment into account," Vint Cerf, WorldCom senior vice president for Architecture and Technology told INQ7.net in an e-mail interview.

Cerf is widely regarded as the Father of the Internet being the co-developer, together with Robert E. Kahn, of TCP/IP (transfer control protocol/Internet protocol), the basic language of the Internet.

The US Securities and Exchange Commission has sued WorldCom, which owns Internet backbone operator UUNet, one of the world's biggest first-tier Internet service providers, for fraud and asked the courts to prevent company executives from destroying documents.

In an arguably bigger accounting scandal than the recent Enron fiasco, WorldCom admitted last week that it misstated \$3.8 billion

in accounting irregularities and hiding losses. WorldCom has already fired its chief financial officer Scott Sullivan and accepted the resignation of David Myers, the company's senior vice president and comptroller. It also announced the layoffs of an estimated 17,000 employees.

Cerf said that he has no plans to leave WorldCom in the wake of the scandal.

"I have no intention of stepping down from my post at WorldCom as long as I am wanted in it. The revelations of accounting mistakes are painful for all of us and have clearly caused many investors, creditors and employees to lose faith in the company. I feel that it is the responsibility of the management team at WorldCom to do its best to put matters right and to regain the confidence of all parties with an interest in WorldCom, most especially, our customers," Cerf said.

How big would be the impact on the global market if WorldCom—the second biggest US telecommunications company—would file for bankruptcy as seems likely, according to reports? The numbers speak for themselves. WorldCom offers Internet access in more than 80 countries. Its share of Internet traffic revenue is pegged at about 35 percent, while its Internet network capacity is 30 percent—or more than the four next largest providers combined.

RP lags behind in use of smart cards in Asia

By Joel D. Pinaroc

WHILE the Philippines is seen to be ready for "smart" cards with 35 to 50 million cards expected to be issued in the country, the country still lags behind its Asian neighbors in the use of the technology, a Filipino-owned smart card technology provider said.

According to Unlimited Solutions Corp., a local systems integrator founded in 1990 specializing on smart card technology, "the smart card industry is growing globally by leaps and bounds."

"In the year 2000, it was estimated that 1.6 billion smart cards were issued worldwide. This figure is predicted to increase to 3.6 billion by the year 2004," said Maya Roessner, founder and CEO of Unlimited Solutions. "Meanwhile, in the Philippines, we are looking at a potential of 35 to 50 million smart cards, depending on the degree of participation of government bodies."

While there are numerous benefits of using the smart cards on a

massive scale, Roessner said the Philippines seemed to have lagged behind in Asia.

"In the Philippines, many groups from the public and private sectors seem to have been stuck to the drawing-board-stage since the mid-1990s, whereas our neighbors in Asia have already progressed to enjoy the financial and social benefits of smart card technology," Roessner said.

According to Roessner, in the Philippines, only 43 percent of credit card-accepting vendors have terminals whereas in Singapore more than 90 percent of the vendors are doing transactions electronically.

"But being slow to adapt new technologies also has its advantages. Now we have the opportunity to pick up best practices from our neighbors in Asia," she said, noting that smart card technology in credit cards will become the standard by the year 2005.

In the Philippines, the government and telecom sectors are the largest smart card users.

Portable war on terror

By Joey G. Alarilla

IN THIS GAME, you're the hero, but you're no superhero.

Forget everything Sly, Arnie, John, Bruce or any other action hero taught you when you play Tom Clancy's "Rainbow Six: Rogue Spear" on the Game Boy Advance (GBA). It's just a game, sure, but it attempts to give you as realistic an experience of counter-terrorist operations as possible.

For that matter, throw away any preconception about handheld games. Nintendo's 32-bit GBA system is revolutionizing the way we think about portable game consoles. Not only in terms of graphics and sound, but also the level of sophistication in actual gameplay. Rogue Spear, while it has its flaws, is an example of this new breed of intelligent handheld games.

Clancy's Rainbow Six series has won the loyalty of many gamers on the PC with its gritty realism and intense gameplay. The obligatory ports to game consoles, however, have generally not been as successful. The thing you have to note about Rogue Spear, however, is that it's not a port but an original game for the GBA. In fact, it's not a first-person shooter like the original Rainbow Six games but instead offers a top-down, third-person perspective.

Right here, fans of the PC series might already start taking a hike and thumbing their nose at the GBA game. A Rainbow Six that's not an FPS? Why, that's like making Doom a platformer! Hand me the chainsaw, Luigi.

Those of you, however, who have an open mind and are willing to check out the game before passing judgment will be rewarded by a new experience that's just right for the handheld. While the GBA has already proven that it can handle FPS games—Doom GBA comes to mind—Ubi Soft decided that the third-person perspective allows the player to keep better track of his teammates on a handheld. After all, the GBA's screen might be 50 percent bigger than the Game Boy Color, but it's still no PC or TV monitor.

GAME BOY ADVANCE

We review this game on the GBA

Like the original Rainbow Six and another Clancy game, Ghost Recon, Rogue Spear features squad-based tactics. In other words, you're in charge of a team composed of four operatives, whom you'll select at the beginning of a mission. Some missions require only one operative—these are recon missions where you have to avoid detection and combat.

Members of the team will come from a pool of 24 Rainbow Six operatives. An operative will belong to one of four classes, namely Assault, Demolition, Recon and Sniper. Each type of operative has its own distinct strengths and weaknesses.

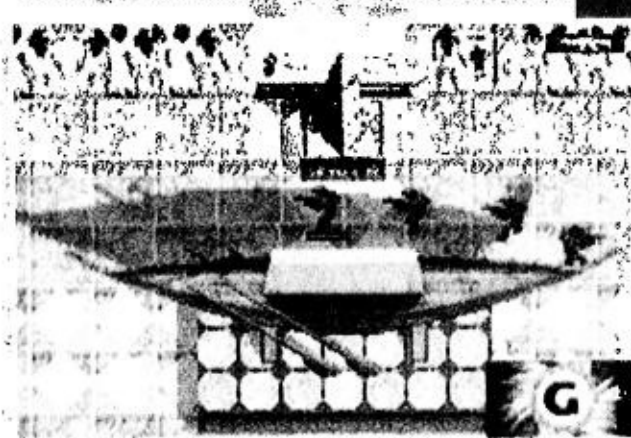
Assault-type operatives have high speed and health. The Demolition class has the advantage of wearing heavy armor as well as high health values, but don't expect him to move as fast as a Recon- or Sniper-class operative, who both wear light armor. Light armor, of course, means that they have the lowest protection against enemy bullets.

When you play Rogue Spear for the first time, only one mission will be available. You'll unlock a new mission every time you complete the current one, for a total of 15 missions. Also, you have the option to play in Lone Wolf mode—that is—play any completed mission using only one operative.

In game terms, this is an in-game map which shows you where your operatives are, where the hostages and other objectives (the bomb to be defused, the ICBM component to be retrieved and other fun stuff) are located, and where the bad guys are. The terrorists are represented by red dots—you have to remember, however, that this simulates heartbeat surveillance, so that not all terrorists will be indicated at all times—only those in close proximity. Also—and this is something you learn the hard way—accessing the map takes place in real time. It does not, I repeat, it does not pause the game, so you could be blown away while fidgeting with your map.

The textbook deployment of the squad members would have the Demolition-class operative leading the way because of their heavy armor and high health values. Assault would take the second position while the most valuable member of the team (at least in the real world)—the smart and stealthy Recon guy who's best at unlocking doors and planting surveillance devices—is protected by being in third position. The Sniper covers them from behind. Try to make sure your Recon survives, otherwise you won't be able to find the terrorists.

Make no mistake about it: Rogue Spear aspires for realism. It doesn't take that many shots for your operative to die, even though the health meter in this game is actually more generous than the PC version. You don't just barge into a room with guns blazing, because you don't have infinite ammo. In fact, you have to remember to reload—and that no matter how many bullets are left in a used magazine, they're history once you reload. So only reload when you have a few bullets in your current magazine—but be careful because you might run out



of bullets at a crucial moment. And no, you won't be able to pick up any wimpy health potions or power-ups along the way. You get hit, you bleed.

The paradox about the game is that it's both fun and frustrating as hell. Of course, it's not everyone's cup of tea—more of an acquired taste, maybe like Clancy's novels. As a game, it's unforgiving. You can't just coast along unless you've already eliminated every terrorist, because something could go terribly wrong with the slightest slip.

The controls are also, by necessity, complicated. My main gripe with the controls is the Action combo, which you need to open doors, defuse bombs, and, most important, rescue hostages and get them to follow you. The combo is L and B—and yes, B also happens to be the firing button. If you're careless, you could end up shooting the hostage. Not fun.

Also definitely not fun is the fact that off-screen opponents can shoot you with unerring accuracy. You're looking around for the enemy but by the time you get to him one or two of your operatives have dropped like flies.

Lastly, there's no mid-game save—each mission is automatically saved after you successfully complete them. This means that you can lose a number of operatives during the final stage of a mission and must decide whether you'll abort or resign yourself to having dead operatives. These dead operatives remain dead—so you'll have fewer options in your manpower pool.

If you can stand a game that almost dares you to like it, check out Rogue Spear. The level designs are well-done, you have interesting and realistic environments, and the music, sound effects and digitized speech are top-notch. You'll find yourself in intense firefights and desperate situations—and you'll grit your teeth while marveling at how you can be enjoying this.

And wonder how a handheld can do all this.

Satellite phone gave away Sabaya's . . .

From page C4

the Aces satellite phone? Or could the military have used the satellite phone calls to pinpoint the bandit group's location using triangulation?

An insider from Smart revealed that it would be difficult to triangulate the location of an Aces subscriber because the system only uses one satellite.

Indeed, the Aces system is only supported by one geosynchronous satellite, the Garuda 1.

"By itself alone, Smart cannot pinpoint the location of a subscriber. Aces system runs the (satellite telecommunications system), and not Smart," said Ramon Isberto, head of Smart's public affairs.

Isberto, however, is not surprised if Sabaya has used the Smart Aces satellite phone service to make calls.

In the Philippines, Aces is available through a pre-paid service, meaning anyone with enough cash could subscribe to the service, he said.

"It is as easy as buying a GSM



PERSONAL belongings recovered from the scene of battle between the military and the Abu Sayyaf include his satellite phone, his trademark Oakley glasses, his .45-caliber pistol and his driver's license under his real name, Aldam Abdullah Tilao.

DENNIS SABANGAN

pre-paid phone in any retail market of Smart," Isberto added.

In a separate interview, however, an army spokesperson ad-

mitted that the American military have surveillance technology to "intercept radio signals."

"I expect that the Americans

have that technology," said Col. Mike Maniquis.

He admitted that the US military had provided the Philippines some "surveillance technology" as part of the technical assistance extended to the Philippine military in the ongoing Balikatan 02-1 joint military exercises.

But asked to confirm if the Philippine military had used the surveillance technology to listen to Sabaya's calls, Maniquis declined to comment.

"I could not confirm that (because) I'm not privy to the technical help extended to efforts to chase Abu Sabaya," the military spokesperson said. "Although (the US military) had been providing technical intelligence to us."

Interestingly, Colonel Maniquis said that the modern surveillance equipment taken away from the defunct Presidential Anti-Organized Crime Task Force could possibly be used to listen to phone calls.

With a report from Fe Zamora

New IBM chief cautious . . .

From page C4

"IBM has been in the country for 65 years now. From clocks to computers, the company has been in a better position during tough times," Quintos said.

Quintos also said that he will count on IBM's deep "management bench" to grow IBM's business in the country. Quintos further said that he will continue the company's programs with the government and the local academe.

Iomega 20-Gb portable . . .

From page C4

bus) version 2.0 as its interface type, making it pluggable to any personal computer or Macintosh with USB ports. USB version 2.0 also makes it faster than older USB peripherals.

4) Very light. This product only weighs 0.51 lb.

5) This is an affordable external drive with focus on user mobility.

Weaknesses
1) This doesn't work with Windows NT.

2) It has no comprehensive manual.

3) It has a slow transfer rate. It

took me about 30 minutes to transfer a 1.3-GB file from my internal hard disk to this portable drive.

The Bottom Line

Instead of using diskettes, the Iomega portable drive is a great companion for transferring files from one PC to another, or simply for additional storage.

For more reviews on the latest gadgets and gizmos, visit us at www.infochat.com.ph.

Want us to review a product? Send us an e-mail to infochat@mozcom.com with the subject heading: "The Bottom Line."





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Satellite phone gave away Abu's position to military

By Erwin Lemuel G. Oliva
INQ7.net

A PHILIPPINE military official admitted that calls made last month by American hostage Gracia Burnham using Abu Sabaya's satellite phone gave indications that she was still alive (back then with husband Martin, and Filipino nurse Ediborah Yap).

Col. Juancho Sabban admitted to INQ7.net that Sabaya "made a mistake when he allowed Gracia to use his satellite phone." Sabban is deputy commander of the Naval Forces South and leader of the intelligence team that tracked down Sabaya.

The military official said his team was reportedly monitoring

the calls on Sabaya's satellite phone, and it was through these calls that the military were able to pinpoint the location of the bandit group.

"It confirmed their location and the fact that Sabaya was just nearby," Sabban told INQ7.net.

With a tip from a mole who had infiltrated the terrorist group, the military spotted and pursued Sabaya and other members of the Abu Sayyaf in the waters off Sibuco. The military eventually clashed with the bandits, killing Sabaya and his two aides and the capture of four other bandits.

To this day, the body of Sabaya has not been recovered in the shark-infested waters off Sibuco. However, the Philippine military

was able to recover some of Sabaya's personal belongings including his satellite phone.

Based on a picture taken by local lensmen, Sabaya was using an Ericsson R190 satellite phone that could double as a GSM phone. A closer look at the phone indicated that he was using an Aces satellite phone.

Aces is short for Asia Cellular Satellite. It is a regional geo-mobile satellite system that provides telecommunications via a small, handheld, mobile user terminal, as well as fixed user terminals for the Asia Pacific Region.

The satellite-based communication system covers an area of 11 million square miles, extending from Pakistan and India in the

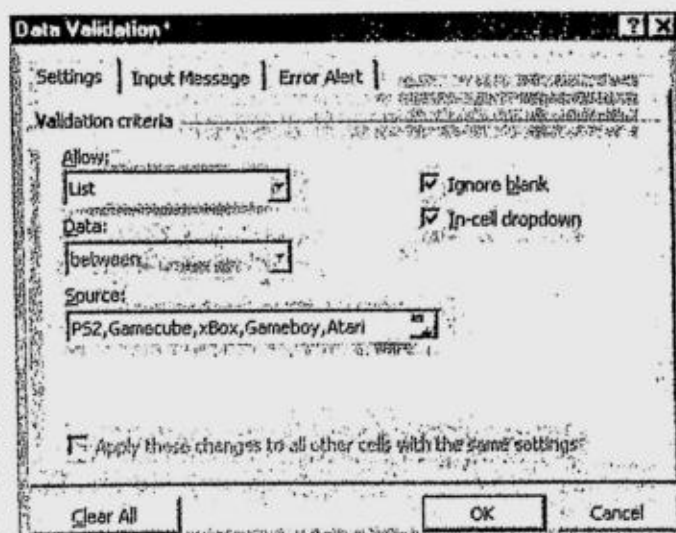
west, to the Philippines and Papua New Guinea in the east, and from Japan and China in the north down to Indonesia in the south. Anyone with a satellite phone can therefore call anyone in areas covered by the system.

Aces services are available in Indonesia, the Philippines and Thailand. The company has signed 49 international roaming agreements with GSM operators, including local GSM provider Smart Communications Inc.

If the pictures of his personal effects were to be believed, Sabaya was using an Aces satellite phone to make calls.

Now, was the military able to listen to Sabaya's calls through

SATELLITE/ C3



How to create dropdown list in Microsoft Excel

By Jerry Liao

WANT to control the content of a cell in Microsoft Excel? Create a dropdown list. Here's how:

- 1) Select a cell or a range that is to contain the validation dropdown list box.
- 2) Go to "Data" then to "Validation."
- 3) Select the "Settings" tab, in the "Allow dropdown" list, select "List."
- 4) The "Source" box can refer

to a range of cells for its values, or you can type them directly separated by a comma.

5) Select "Input message" tab if you want your users to see an input message every time the cell is selected.

6) Select "Error Alert" tab and an error message (provided by you) will appear every time a user attempts to type a value not included in the list.

7) Click "OK"

For more tips, visit <http://www.brainshare.com.ph>.

POWERTIPS

Iomega 20-Gb portable drive

By Jerry Liao

THIS week we'll take a look at the Iomega 20-gigabyte portable drive with USB version 2.0.

Strengths
1) Height: 3.0 inches, width: 9.4 inches, depth: 8.5 inches.

THE BOTTOM LINE

2) Comes with backup, quicksync and disaster recovery programs.

3) Uses USB (universal serial bus) interface.

IOMEGA/ C3

New IBM chief cautious on Philippine prospects

By Joel D. Pinaroc

NEWLY appointed IBM Philippines general manager Joaquin Quintos IV said that he is "cautiously optimistic" about the local business atmosphere, as the global information technology (IT) giant approaches its 65th year of operation in the country.

Quintos, a 20-year veteran of IBM and former director for worldwide sales of IBM's software group, formally assumed the post on July 1, replacing Jack Hamill

who has gone back to IBM's headquarters in the United States.

Asked to give an assessment of the local IT industry, Quintos said that "he still believes in the Philippine IT industry" and that "there will always be an opportunity" for IT companies to earn money during economic downturns.

Quintos said that while an economic recovery is in the offing for the Philippines, he admitted that "these are tough, but exciting times."

NEW/ C3

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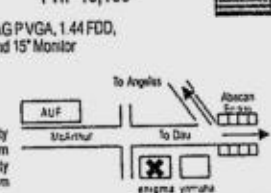
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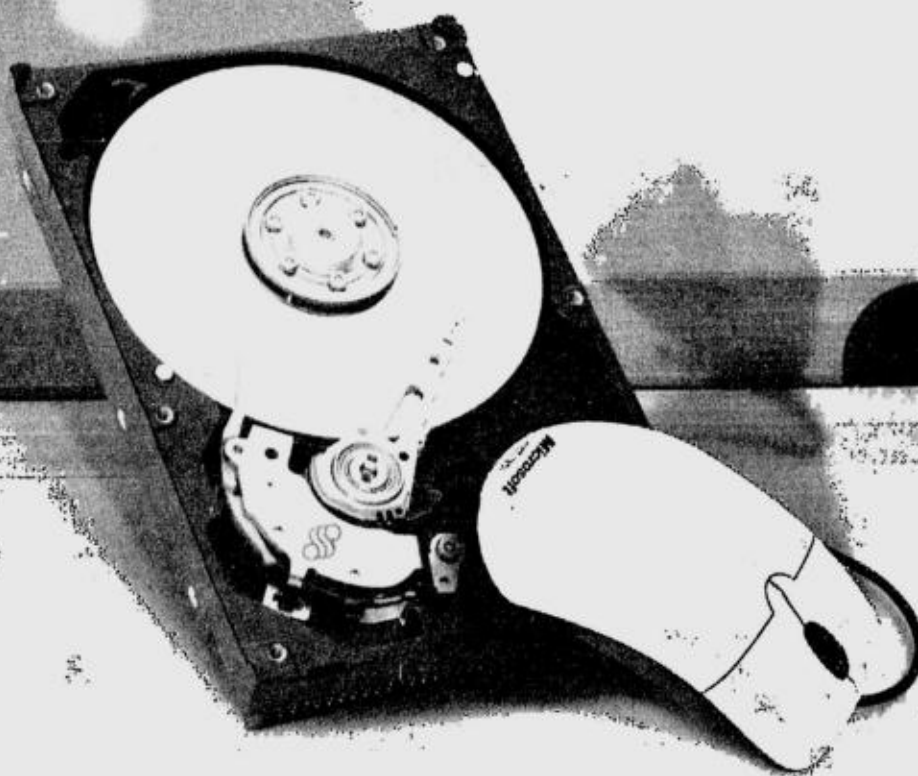
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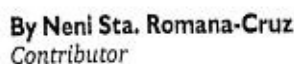
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Despite budget cuts, arts regime is well—NCCA

REGARDING the article "Stasis in Culture and the Arts" (by Lito B. Zulueta, PDI Lifestyle, 6/10/02), the National Commission for Culture and the Arts (NCCA) thanks the INQUIRER for helping publicize the Culture and Arts Conference last June 13 and 14.

We also thank the paper for calling attention to the plight of government cultural agencies that have been drastically affected by budgetary cuts. By airing issues that are pertinent to the NCCA and the Philippine cultural scene, the INQUIRER is doing the movement to preserve and develop our nation's cultural heritage a world of good.

The Conference on Culture and Arts was the venue to set our sector's targets for the future. To ensure that the targets would "have a bearing on the here and now," as Mr. Zulueta put it, the conference brought together members of the NCCA's national committees and representatives of attached government cultural agencies and government and private institutions involved in the preservation and development of Philippine arts and culture. The assembly assessed efforts undertaken in the cultural sector in the previous years. From these, the assembly then discussed ways to improve the efforts and chart directions for the future. The workshop had three main aims: to heighten advocacy on issues concerning sustainable development specifically on ancestral domain, environment protection, and poverty alleviation; to heighten interventions toward defining Filipino identity; and to promote appreciation of Philippine

arts by Filipino and non-Filipinos and to contribute to the improvement of the quality of life.

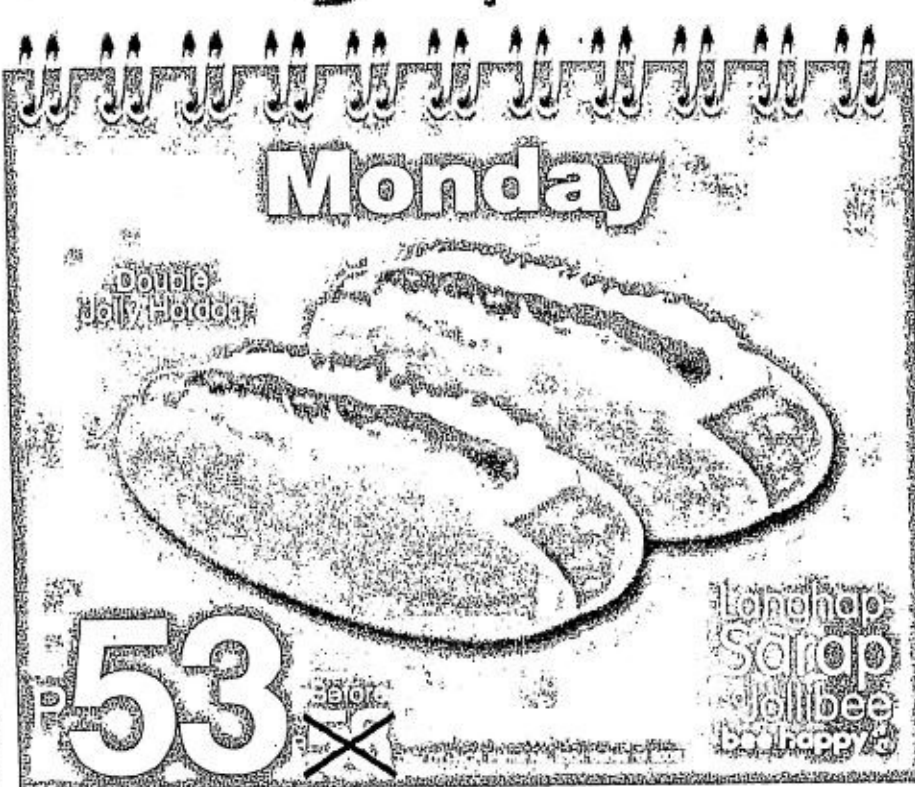
However, allow me to clarify a few points that were raised in the article.

Regarding NCCA funds, much has happened from when the National

Culture and the Arts) on May 9.

As to the observation that NCCA activities have been at a standstill since the takeover of the new government, this is far from the truth. From February to December 2001, the NCCA board has come up with 353

Jollibee DailySpecials



Committee on Literary Arts last met in April. Admittedly, the NCCA did enforce a moratorium on project approvals in the interim period that it was not receiving any clear indication as to the availability of funds from the Department of Budget and Management (DBM). Fortunately, the moratorium has been lifted and projects have continued to be approved and funded upon the release by the DBM of the second quarter installment of the Neca (National Endowment for

resolutions approving projects and policies. This year we embarked on a search for a new chair. In the interim, work did not stop. From January to the present, the board has come up with 87 resolutions in spite of budgetary delays experienced last March. The writer's statement, therefore, that there "has been no funding for the arts and culture sector for almost a year now" is a gross exaggeration.

Mr. Zulueta quoted poet-fictionist

DESPITE/P.D.B



A TYPICAL Larry Alcala cartoon

Remembering Larry Alcala

From page D1

Museo Pambata head and PBBY member Nina Lim-Yuson called to follow up on John Silva's lead that Doreen was thinking of making the donation. Doreen was not yet ready to take calls and since I was keeping watch that day, I took the message (Doreen and I were first cousins and dear friends). Even with many tubes attached to her body, she never complained or showed displeasure that we should be talking about the donation at a time like that. She quietly said that yes, she would attend to that sometime later.

She did attend to the donation. Before she died, there had been concern that Doreen might still be away on her New York vacation and thus fail to attend NCBBD. Now definitely, her absence will be especially felt on that day.

Dean of illustrators

Mang Larry was the original sectoral representative of illustrators in the PBBY board. He organized workshops for illustrators at the Film Center in 1989 and the children's illustration workshop at the Goethe Institute in 1991 with German illustrator Reinhard Michl. He inspired many students at UP Fine Arts, where he taught and was department head of visual communication before he retired. He became the acknowledged godfather of Ang Ilustrador ng mga Kabataan (InK), according to founding member and former president Bernie Sollina Wolf. In those days, artists specializing in children's book illustrations were unheard of.

PBBY chair Beaulah Tagulwalo succeeded Mang Larry as sectoral representative when he left for the kinder and healthier pace of Bacolod living in 1996. Tagulwalo vividly and gratefully recalls the incredibly humble manner in which this icon of Philippine cartooning conducted the PBBY-Goethe Institute workshop. A workshop requirement was an exhibit of illustrations for stories to be given to the illustrators on the spot. There was Mang Larry "humbly presenting type-written stories he brought as possible choices." Tagulwalo says those were the early winners of the PBBY writing contest.

Tagulwalo chose "Sampaguita" by Ma. Elena Paterno, and her stunning artwork for the story, reminiscent of Ezra Jack Keats' illustrations, won in the workshop and became her first published children's book. "I only realize now that Mang Larry was there to carry his responsibilities as sectoral repre-

sentative for illustrators, to help in the creation and promotion of children's books."

Young illustrator Enrico Chua never met the cartoonist personally, but he was inspired by Mang Larry's cartoon strips "Bing Bang Bum" in Funny Komiks and "Siopawman" in the dailies. This was when Chua was four. "He taught me that anything is possible with his crazy characters and their unbelievable inventions (a lotion that creates prickly heat, a hat that makes you smarter, etc.) and that there's always something funny somewhere somehow in our "slices" of life. We just have to look for it. I miss him already."

It is a tribute to Mang Larry that the InK members have become the most sought-after illustrators in book publishing and graphic design today. Mang Larry, look at where they are now.

Mang Larry was never selfish with his art. He effortlessly dashed off our family Christmas card one year, humoring me with his hidden profile. But there was one artwork of his where he could not quite hide himself. This was PBBY-commissioned caricature he had to prepare for a Sunday magazine cover for the 1991 NCBBD. He portrayed the board members as school children who loved to read. And since he was one of us, there he was reading not a book, but "komiks." He was well out of the range of vision of National Artist and PBBY honorary chair Lucrecia Kasilag who was depicted as a librarian. Other characters in the cartoon were Nic Tiongson and Virgilio Almarino fighting over a book on "Girls", Dr. Serafin Quiason, Narcissa Munasque, Karina Bolasco, the late Carol Afan, Gloria Rodriguez, Elizabeth Peralejo, Nina Lim Yuson, Rene O. Villanueva, Angelina Cabanero and this writer.

RayVi Sunico, sectoral rep for publishers, visited Mang Larry during the wake. "Mang Larry in death looked happier, cooler, and better than some of the live people I see walking around," he remarked. "Says something about his quality of life."

Thank you, Mang Larry, for the laughter and the many years of friendship and working together to bring books and children together. We are fortunate to have known you better than just your now-famous profile.

The author is a member of the Philippine Board on Books for Young People, tel. 372-3548 to 49. E-mail comments to nenitrc@hotmail.com

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Children's Book Day July 16

MAGAZINE cover in 1991 depicting the members of the Philippine Board of Books for Young People. Alcala's famous profile is shown. The cartoonist is surreptitiously reading "komiks."

Images culled from the subconscious

By Gino Dormiendo
Contributor

A YOUNG, aspiring neophyte who enters the art world is most often bound by convention. This is expected since the majority of today's budding artists work under the influence of their mentors who cast a heady spell on fledgling talents.

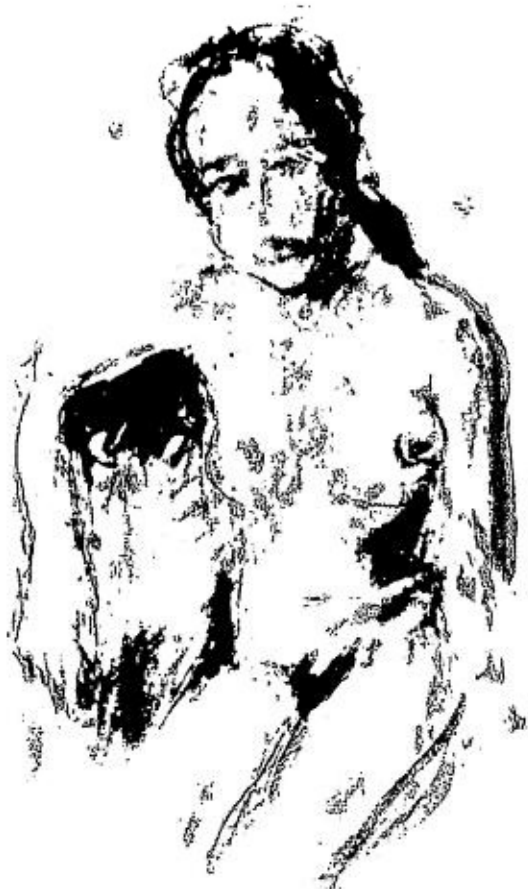
But in the case of Carlo Angelo Saavedra, mainly a self-taught painter who took up such diverging disciplines as physical therapy, the humanities and music (where he is still an undergraduate at the University of Sto. Tomas), painting is a matter of "visceral responsiveness," which compels him to paint anything and everything that preoccupies his mind.

In his first solo show, the 22-year-old painter has culled images, or more accurately, scenes from the subconscious that are as ephemeral and improvisational as they come. The show is provocatively called "The Irregulars" (Ad Infinitum, until July 11), and his initial output mainly consists of renderings of famous mythological characters, dead or decaying flowers, mental and emotional states, which are all the more eloquent for the references and allusions they rekindle in the viewer's own storehouse of memory. Thus, in the piece "Venus, Was It Something We Said?," the classical goddess of beauty becomes the subject of an intimate conversation. In "The Cathedral Recedes," the artist takes a quizzical view of an edifice that is otherwise architecturally perfect.

There are other works as well that, in the postmodern mind, are emblematic of Saavedra's attempt to deconstruct age-old icons revered for their beauty and purity, those infallible virtues that, in this day and age, need to be reinterpreted. There is, for instance, the four-part "Varia," actually a series of acrylic paintings of red-petal flowers with slightly perceptible variations in their hues. These are scenes in the life of a decaying flower, more fittingly an elegiac tribute to that variable called death.

Calling the painting act one of almost pure sensation, Saavedra wishes to capture that definitive moment in time by unraveling the evanescent moods of his subject. Saavedra has two suites of work in the show: the acrylics on canvas and the drawings on paper. As expected, two styles emerge, with the drawings revealing the artist's firmer grasp of his effort to merge subject with style. While the acrylics are admirably daring in both color and sheer size, it is, in the drawings that his struggle to conjure the spirit of irregularity becomes truly emotionally compelling.

In many of these works, the artist's self-styled musicality comes to the fore. This is, of course, the result of his training in such instruments as the piano, the cello and drums,



"DIANA, at 4 a.m.," ink/pastel on paper



"WHILE We Have Hands for Touching," acrylic on canvas

all of which he plays with equal proficiency. The evanescent imagery of Saavedra's work is, by turns, passionate and melancholic, hot and cool, depending on one's subjective response.

An unmistakably strong influence, too, are the artists belonging to the Blumentritt Group, who take part in regular sketching sessions at the Ad Infinitum Gallery in San Juan. Though equally diverse in persuasion and styles, the artists in this group are bound by their single-minded pursuit of art in its multi-

farious forms: expressionism, abstraction, surrealism and even avant-gardism with a twist. It is here in this old ancestral house where the artists—young and old alike, established and uninitiated—dine and wine to their hearts' content, commune with the muse, as they take up brush and paint in an interactive, highly informal atmosphere that has served them well through the years.

E-mail the author at gdormiendo@yahoo.com.

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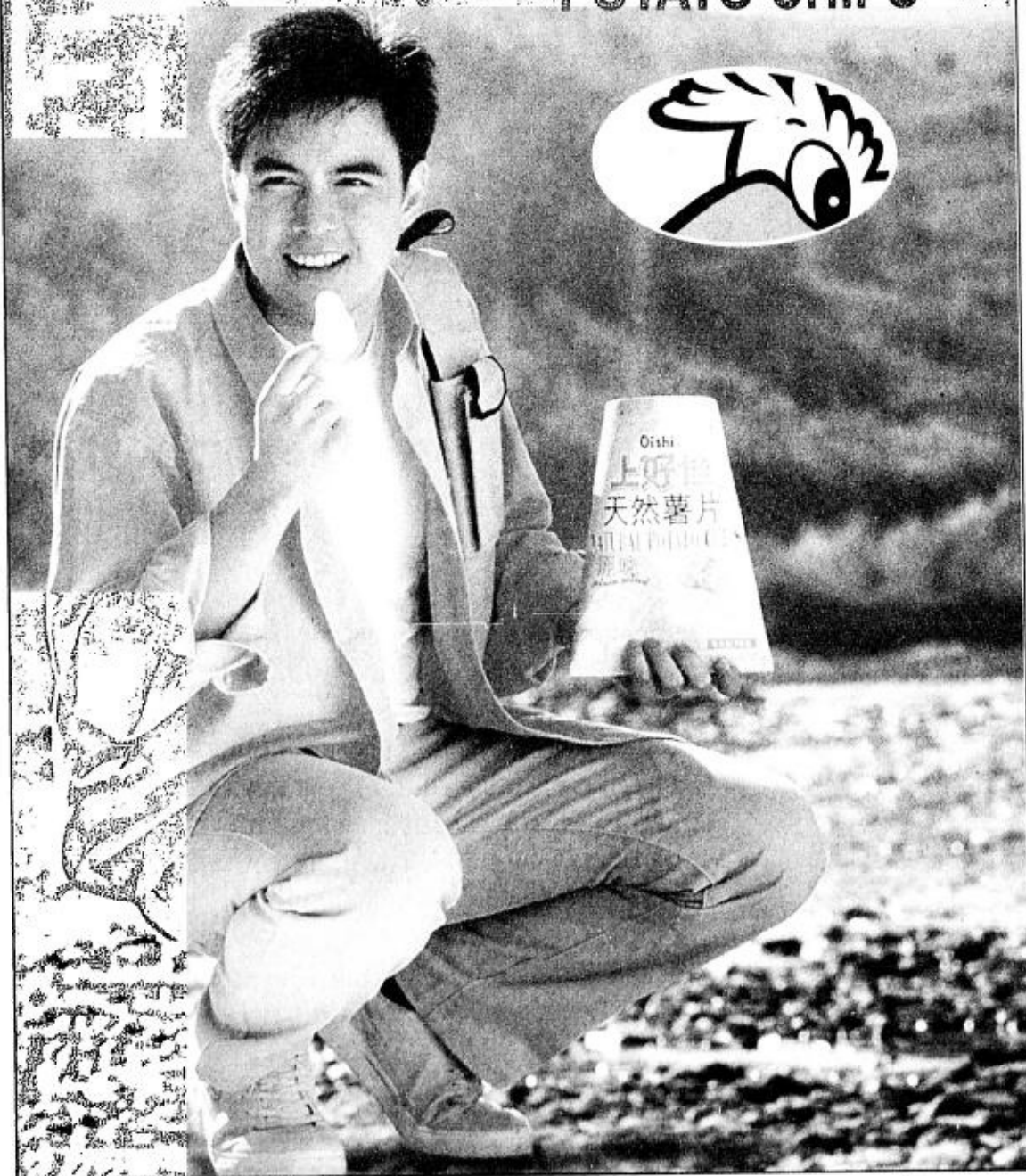
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her chance. It did not take her an entire day to wipe off her prize earnings. After a few hours at Rustan's Makati, she brought home her luxury goods and gave appliances to her favorite charity.

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Golden portraits of violence and decay, alienation and repose

By Constantino C. Tejero

THE BONDING of the Ventura brothers, painters Ronald and Rolando, must be strong, as their works have strong similarities in draftsmanship and coloration, in their preference for the nude as subject, even in paint application and shading—the first-time viewer is likely to confuse one work with another, not to mention the names.

The two have a younger brother named Arnold, a budding artist whose style and technique seem familiar. And that should add to the confusion.

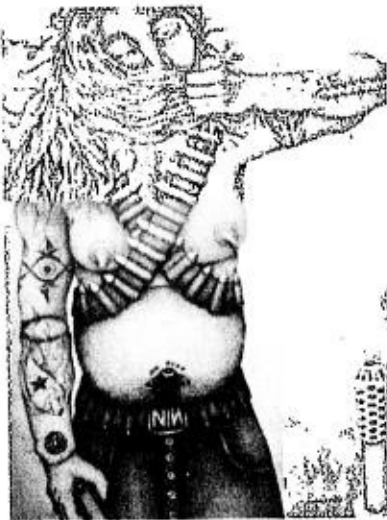
A closer look, however, would clear up the confusion. While Ronald's figures are visually and psychologically quirkier, Olan's (Rolando) have serenity and balance. Ronald's often dynamic composition is foiled by Olan's symmetry and studied poses.

In an ongoing exhibit, Olan Ventura bonds with another artist, friend Mark Vincent Matabilas. The two-man show "Bonding" runs until July 14 in The Big & Small Art Co. at Artwalk, 4/L, Building A, SM Megamall.

A fine arts graduate from the University of the East, Ventura has won in the annual Shell and Metrobank art competitions. Although he acknowledges elder brother Ronald as his greatest influence, he says René Magritte is the artist he admires most.

For that matter, we can see how the Belgian artist has influenced him, too. Although his eight oil-on-canvas pieces in the exhibit form parts of a family portrait (of himself, wife Gigi, sons Ace and Allen, all in nude), they look as alienating as the Surrealist gimmickry of Magritte so that they hardly exude the comforts of home.

"Pause" and "Balancing" are portraits of the kids at play. These are photographic in details, one would almost say realistic, but for the ghostly cast of light, the neutral background, the floating



"DERANGED Man," acrylic and pencil on canvas, by Mark Vincent Matabilas

shirt on a hanger.

Death metaphor

"Untitled" is a lovely portrait of the artist's wife, a standing frontal nude veiled in vivid red, her eyes closed. From a distance, the figure looks like a golden phallic object emerging from a red sheath. A silver crescent moon directly above gives it a cultish mystique.

"Tied Up" is a portrait of man and wife enwrapped in a golden cloth with red leaf prints, against a brown background. It has an Oriental motif and a few Aubrey Beardsley flourishes, giving it a certain lightness.

This would be a couple in a loving embrace if they were not so wrapped up and secured with a rope, making them look like one mummy in a coffin. The death metaphor (for married life?) is underscored by the marmoreal skin and the elongated vertical format of the canvas.

Ventura's figures are often in repose; with eyes closed, they could be sleeping or dead. This is supposed to be a celebra-

tion of family, but while the portraits are in warm tones, they look oddly cold.

Still they look comforting compared to the figures in Matabilas' disturbing portraits in acrylic and pencil on canvas. Here represented by three unpretty half-nude portraits of violence and decay, Matabilas revels in in-your-face images.

These are also done in warm tones, the human skin rendered in a golden glow. But whereas Ventura's has more luminosity, Matabilas' is earthier, more solid-looking, with fine shade lines in gray graphite.

Aggressive figures

And while Ventura prefers to use the color field as background, neutral and generally lacking in details, Matabilas usually crams his canvas with the human figure (anatomy is sometimes cropped out of the canvas). What is little left for background is adorned with letter-transfer rubbing on canvas, which adds a textural element.

"Deranged Man" depicts a punk holding a gun and going through the enigmatic motion of half-covering his face with his long hair. On his arms are tattooed the image of a shark (or a flaming missile), an eye, Chinese characters, and around his navel (which looks like an eye) are the words "Mr. Self-Destruct."

Blue-green bandoleers cross his chest, while beside him sticks out the gray barrel of a rocket launcher. Either this is a terrorist, a death-metal rocker, or a rugby hooligan (as indicated by his forearm assuming the form of a rugby ball).

"Heartbreakin' T-Back Girl" is a portrait of a playgirl with a pre-Raphaelite face and golden locks, impossibly big breasts with vulva for cleavage, distended abdomen, and a red, red rose on her crotch, inviting yet menacingly thorny.

"Mark" is a cartoonish self-portrait of what the artist could look like 20 years from now.



"PAUSE I," oil on canvas, by Olan Ventura

A fine arts graduate from the University of Santo Tomas, Matabilas idolizes the Austrian Egon Schiele, one of the greatest Expressionist painters.

The influence can be seen in his aggressive figures. But whereas Schiele's angst-ridden portraits depict emaciated figures looking directly at the viewer, Matabilas' are voluptuous or flabby to the point of decay, with heavy-lidded, lackadaisical eyes.

In the outright eroticism of both, though, and in their power to disturb the viewer, they find a common ground. Obviously, they tap the same source, and the usual suspect is Freud.

Printmakers at Ayala; Antonio at West

THE PHILIPPINE Association of Printmakers will open an exhibit of fine prints done in varied printmaking techniques on July 9. Participating artists include Raul Isidro, Pandy Aviado, Fil Delacruz, Benjie Torrado Cabrera, Mario Parial, Jess Flores, Bernard Temporosa, Charito Bitanga, Rhoda Recto, Amble Abano, Al Perez, Troy Ignacio, Janos Delacruz and Carillo Casamayor.

VISUAL ARTS

The exhibit will run until July 23 at the Ayala Museum art galleries at the old Makati Stock Exchange Building along Ayala Avenue, Makati City. Call 812-1191 to 95 local 103.

BERT Antonio presents "Ten Characters" at West Gallery (3/L, Glorietta 4, Ayala Center, Makati City) until July 16. The exhibit features Antonio's latest paintings done in gouache and incorporated with photos which come from his recent series, "Photo Calligraphy II (Painting with Character)." His works reveal his continued exploration of photography, calligraphy and painting. Call 752-7028 to 29.

STELLA Reyes and Christine Valentine hold the exhibit, "Liberation 02," featuring oil-acrylic paintings, at the Bigskymind, 66-B Dona Juana Rodriguez, New Manila, QC. The exhibit runs until July 9.

THE SINING, Kulay at Tinta (Sikat) is holding an



"IS It Fact? Is It Myth?," gouache and photo on watercolor paper, by Bert Antonio at West Gallery

all-men art group exhibit, "Touch of Men," at Gallery 101 (2/F, 101 Kalma Building, corner Sto. Domingo St. and Quezon Ave., QC). The artists include Andy "Abu" Urag, Andy Pernia, Cales Untulan, Dante Divina, Des Tenorio, Dr. Eusebio Llamas, Ephie Soledad, Ernie De Leon, Freddie Dumaquita, Ige Boquiren Concepcion, Jun Tanlang, Lyndon Garrovillas, Manny de Guzman Jr., Noel "Bote" Bautista, Norberto Villaz, Pol A. Masina Jr., Rene Bellson, Rene Joson, Roland Rosacay, Robert de Aro, Rodgie Gapayao and



MA. TERESA Esguerra-Tarnate and Nannette Guinto-Amorado present their latest joint exhibit at Gallery 139 at the Artwalk, 4/F, Building A, SM Megamall, Mandaluyong City until July 16.

Salvador Bernardo. The exhibit runs until July 15. Call 410-0159.

GARRY-ROSS Pastrana presents his latest one-man show, "Echolalia," at the Finale Art Gallery (Artwalk, 4/L, SM Megamall A, Mandaluyong City). The show features original photomicrographs of reproductive parts of the human body that are echoes of other things. Pastrana will also show video art of landscapes. The show runs until July 14.



THE MANILA Artists Group will exhibit the latest paintings of its members at the San Agustin Museum on July 10. Manila Mayor Lito Atienza and National Commission for Culture and the Arts Maria Fina Yonzon will cut the ceremonial ribbon. The exhibit will run until July 31.

"ORKIDYAS," acrylic on canvas, by Ferdie Santiago, at San Agustin Museum

THEATER technical workshops will be held at the Sinag Arts Studio (664 San Ignacio St., Mandaluyong City). The workshop on costume and makeup will start on July 14 with Joy Rago and Bong de la Torre as facilitators. A workshop on acoustics will start on July 16 with Dino Vizconde as resource speaker. Call 531-3491 or fax 531-9524.

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Drilon, Alcazaren and Pacquing at The Loop

ROCK Drilon, Juan Alcazaren and Bernardo Pacquing will hold a joint exhibit that will inaugurate the Magnet Plus Bookstore and Art Gallery at The Loop 9501 (ELJ

Center, ABS-CBN Compound, Eugenio Lopez Jr. Street, QC). The book and magazine shop cum art space is operated by broadcast personality Ces Drilon.



ARTIST Rock Drilon at the Magnet Plus Bookstore and Gallery

Killing us Softly



Estrellita V. Fernando-Lopez, MD, MA, FPCP, FPSEM*

It afflicts men easily and how. Most people will enjoy the process of being affected by the disorder. It gets into our system by filling ourselves with the "good" calorie dense food teeming all around us, and willing away our time in front of the computer and the idiot box—the television.

What is this malady that is now considered an epidemic affecting people worldwide, a by-product of a modern world overwhelmed by fast-food outlets and technological know-how promoting a sedentary lifestyle, and which results in health burdens which shorten man's life span?

Look around and see the increased number of people afflicted with obesity. A 1998 survey of the Food and Nutrition Research Institute of the Philippines found that 23.3% of Filipinos are overweight, and more than 20% are obese. In the United States, the statistics are more alarming: more than half of the Americans are overweight, and more than one fourth (27%) have obesity. How do you know if you are overweight, or obese, for that matter?

MEASURE OF OBESITY

Ideal body weight charts

Obesity is defined as an excess of body fat. Obesity is more than 20% of one's ideal body weight (IBW). Overweight is more than 10% but less than 20% over one's IBW. Ideal body weight may be estimated through the following formula:

Build	Women	Men
Small	-10%	-10%
Medium	100 lbs for 1st 5ft. of height; 5lbs/inch for each inch > 5ft.	106 lbs for 1st 5ft. of height; 6lbs/inch for each inch > 5ft.
Large	+10%	+10%

Body Mass Index (BMI)

Among physicians and health care workers, Body Mass Index is most often used as a predictor of body fat. BMI is the ratio between an individual's weight, and the square of his or her height, and is reported as kg/m². The BMI associated with the lowest incidence of morbidity and mortality, and is therefore considered as normal, is between 18 and 25. Overweight is defined as a BMI between 25 and 30; for obesity, BMI is more than 30.

For Asians, this classification has been modified—the normal BMI is only up to 23. The individual is already overweight if BMI is between 23 and 25, and obese if BMI is more than 25.

Classification of Adult Obesity According to BMI

BMI	W.H.O.	Asia Pacific
18.5 - 24.9	Healthy	Healthy
18.5 - 23		"At risk"
23 - 25	Pre-obese	Obese I
25 - 29.9	Obese I	Obese II
30 - 34.9	Obese II	
35 - 39.9	Obese III	
40 +		

Waist Circumference

For Asians, waist circumference is more predictive of body fat excess, and is most useful if BMI is less than 35. One is considered obese if he or she exceeds the cut-off values of 102 cm for men, and 88 cm for women.

Waist to hip Ratio

Values are also gender-specific:
Males: > 1.0 Waist to hip ratio
Female: > 0.85 Waist to hip ratio

THE BURDENS OF OBESITY

"How cute naman!"

We often hear this being said of infants and toddlers who are bursting with extra fat and walking Roly-polys. Yes indeed, they look very good at this early stage, but soon in grade school, the "cute" description becomes a teasing "Tabatsoy" and "Babsy" and worse to a derisive "Baboy!" Here begins the psychological burden of obesity, eventually resulting in poor self-image and low self-esteem. Small wonder then that obesity is associated with lower educational achievement, increased unemployment, and underemployment.

The psychological impact of obesity is already overwhelming, but the medical problems linked with it are mind-boggling: increase incidence of diabetes, gallstones, arthritis, hypertension, hypercholesterolemia, heart diseases, and even cancer, mostly of the reproductive or gastrointestinal organs.

So next time you feel the craving for another of those cheeseburgers to be downed with refillable glasses of soft drinks and bottomless iced tea, think of these excess calories being converted into fat in your system, bringing you one step at a time closer to that silent, soft killer: Obesity.

*Dr. Estrellita Lopez, a Cum Laude graduate of Medicine, is Assistant Professor of Endocrinology and Metabolism at the faculty of Medicine and Surgery, University of Santo Tomas.

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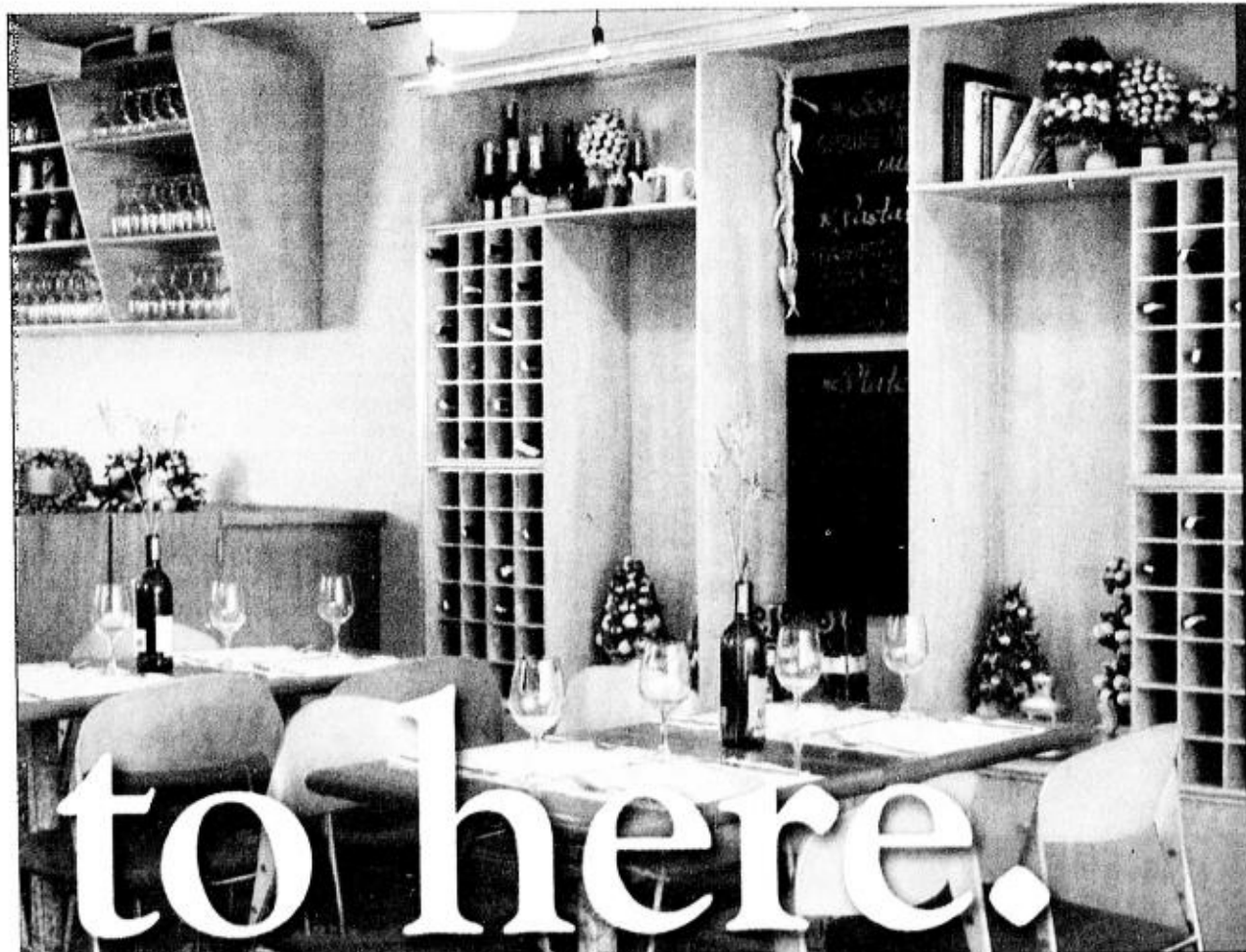
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LIFESTYLE

'Oedipus Rex' in English and in Filipino

DULAANG Unibersidad ng Pilipinas (Dulaang UP) presents "Sophocles' Oedipus Rex," and its Filipino translation, "Haring Edipo" by the late Rolando Tinio, National Artist for Theater. Direction is by Anton Juan.

Leading the cast is Bart Guingona as Oedipus in the English



PINKY Marquez is Jocasta while Bart Guingona is Oedipus

version, and Mario Magallona and Neil Ryan Sese as Edipo/Kreon in the translated version. Tiresias will be played by Behn Cervantes and Amiel Leonardia. Pinky Marquez plays Jocasta in the English version while Mailes Kanapi plays Yokasta in the Filipino version.

Considered as one of the greatest masterpieces of Western drama, "Oedipus Rex" is a tragedy that explores the basic questions of fate and human action. Oedipus, King of Thebes, in trying to desperately escape a terrible prophecy, unintentionally fulfills it by murdering his father and marrying his mother. In doing so, "Oedipus violates not only the laws of society but of the gods as well."

"Oedipus Rex" and "Haring Edipo" will run from July 17 to Aug. 4 at the Wilfrido Ma. Guerrero Theater, UP Diliman, QC. For inquiries, touring, and ticket reservation, call 926-1349/920-5301 local 6441/924-3224 (telefax). Also e-mail dulaangup@yahoo.com or visit the Dulaang UP office, Room 136, Palma Hall, UP Diliman.

Despite budget cuts, arts regime is well—NCCA

From page D2

Jaime An Lim is saying that Mindanao programs do not even amount to a percentage of the NCCA's funding for the arts and culture. This is an unfair statement. The Mindanao island group has never been overlooked by the NCCA. We have established several schools for living traditions and have constantly held workshops, trainings, performances, exhibitions, restoration and documentation projects, and other activities (a list could be furnished the INQUIRER upon request). If Mr. Lim is referring to the NCCA's non-support of the 9th Iligan Writer's Workshop, please be informed that we have supported the workshop in the past years.

Unfortunately, due to the budget problems faced by the NCCA in the first quarter of 2002, we could not fund this year's workshop, but not because of the Commission's perceived "preference to have the program dropped."

Regarding what Mr. Zulueta has called as "a rather secretive nomination process" from which I emerged as NCCA chair, the selection procedure was agreed on by the board. An ad hoc committee created by the NCCA board conducted a deliberate search for nominees. To do this, a call for nominees was published in both print and online versions of the NCCA newsletter, Agung; press releases were distributed to all major national broadsheets; and letters inviting nominations were handed out to all members of the NCCA national committees and attached cultural agencies. The position of NCCA chair is filled by election by the board. The NCCA chair is, therefore, not an appointive position.

Lastly, the release of salaries of NCCA employees was never delayed by months. The worst case happened when the salaries of contractual employees were delayed by a maximum of two weeks.

(Sgd.) EVELYN B. PANTIG
Chair, National Commission for Culture and the Arts and Undersecretary of Tourism

Although the NCCA board had indeed passed resolutions approving projects and policies, many of these were not implemented for lack of funds. In some instances, organizers pushed through with the approved projects despite the failure of the NCCA to release the funds; the proponents themselves raised the money. The nomination process was "secretive" because while the committees and others groups had been asked to nominate, they were not formally informed about the results of the nomination. The delay in salaries, as I wrote in the article, affected the casual employees of NCCA and the CCP, the latter reportedly suffering the greater delay.—Lito B. Zulueta

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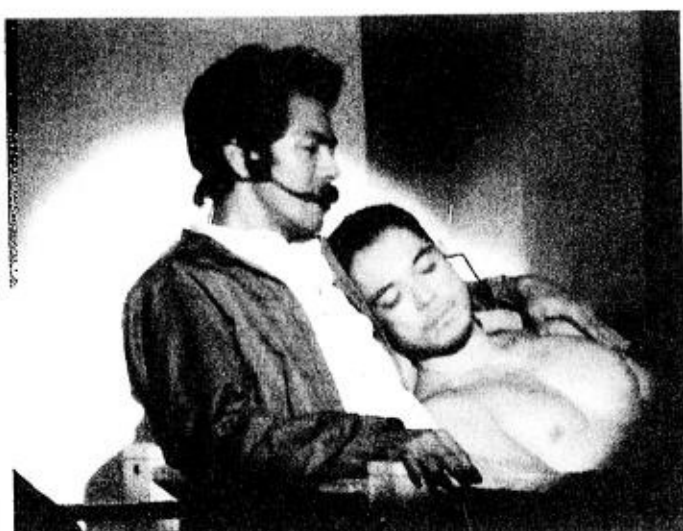
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JAKE Macapagal and Joel Trinidad play lovers in "Falsettos."

Two different coming-of-age, coming-out plays

Story on page E2

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Two different coming-of-age, coming-out plays

By Cora Llamas
Contributor

HOW would you feel if someone really close to you, whose identity was inextricably linked with yours—a parent, a sibling, or a child—suddenly confessed that he or she was gay?

That is the dilemma confronting the protagonists in Repertory Philippines' "Visiting Mr. Green" and New Voice Company's (NVC) "Falsettos." The setting and character background underscore the difficulty of the coming-out process; while both stories are set in modern, hip New York, the families concerned spring from the conservative Jewish branch. While modernity has allowed the members to tread a few steps from the oft-beaten track, a few sacred unwritten laws are regarded as unbreakable.

"Falsettos"

In "Falsettos," the musical by James Lapine and William Finn, 12-year-old Jason (Joshua Ramirez) practically shuts himself from the world upon finding out that dad Marvin (Jake Macapagal) has a male lover, Whizzer (Joel Trinidad). That this revelation happens as he approaches his bar mitzvah, the Jewish traditional rite of passage into manhood, makes it more ominous for him. Jason is simply scared that he might become homosexual like his father. Neither parent can reach him. In desperation, they contact the psychiatrist Mendel (Rito Asilo), who's pretty much of a nut case himself—and who ends up as the lover of Jason's histrionic mother Trina (Lynn Sherman).

The authors infuse this potentially sensitive storyline with irony, sardonic humor, and a lot of high-strung energy. (According to one actor, the reason for the author's light approach is to prevent the subject matter from being bogged down in heavy soap opera.) The numbers jump from one scene to another with lightning speed. During the first act, the music baring the characters' inner torment ranges from sharp and springing to loud and cathartic. At a loss to help Jason, Mendel reverts to dancing his advice that everything will turn out all right in the end. Trina shrieks and wails with intended exaggeration about her ex-husband's sexual change. Marvin and Whizzer battle for dominance in cat-like, edgy quarrels.

Much of the poignancy happens only during the second act. The grim shadow of AIDS enters the picture, and Whizzer's impending death compels a reconciliation. The music



JOSHUA Ramirez as Jason in "Falsettos"

becomes more inner-focused: Whizzer's lamentation at having his life cut short at a young age, and Trina's courageous resolution to forgive and move on. At the end, Marvin gets what he wants: a family composed of his son, lover, ex-wife, and ex-wife's lover.

The harmony of such a dichotomized, dysfunctional, different family appears to be the message of the musical. Unfortunately, too much brash wit and loud humor in the first act prevent a real emotional connection with the characters. While the numbers in the second act are affecting, the emotional investment that should have been drawn from the audience during the critical previous hour is thin and sparse.

Marvin starts out selfish and ends up self-pitying. The motivations behind angry Jason's brave efforts to reach out to Whizzer are unclear, making his decision to stage his bar mitzvah at the hospital like a *deus ex machina*. While the gay couples (Marvin and Whizzer, Charlotte and Cordelia) establish genuine love in their relationships at the end, Trina and Mendel's still appears like a comic marriage of convenience. One truly wonders at the kind of nurturing all these characters (minus Whizzer) will give the growing Jason.

Only the enthusiastic, competent performances of the NVC, under Andrew Vergara's direction, keep this play afloat. The company

itself comes of age; it's the first major production in years without artistic director and guiding light Monique Wilson onstage. Macapagal, Trinidad, Sherman and Asilo make their characters more human than the script's stab at wit would let them. Ramirez's surly, in-your-face stance makes him a welcome change from your usual precocious child actors, serving him well during his character's rebellious stages. As Jason matures and conquers his fears, more coaching is required, to enable newcomer Ramirez to show nuances of tenderness, dawning joy and a child's newfound serenity.

"Visiting Mr. Green"

Complex, layered qualities make Miguel Faustmann's title character sympathetic and lovable despite his bigotry. The 60-year-old Mr. Green in Rep's production is a cantankerous, snobbish, reclusive Jew of the old school who hasn't spoken to his daughter in decades simply because she married a Gentile.

He also instinctively turns his back on the one person who tries to befriend him upon finding out the latter's gay orientation.

Ross (Michael Williams) revelation that he is gay and Mr. Green's angry, confused reaction come as no surprise. But by the time it occurs, the script's gradual unveiling of the characters' hidden inner lives had already bonded them with the audience. The predictable plot of Jeff Baron's two-man, feel-good play, under Zeneida Amador's direction, is elevated by Faustmann's emotionally charged performance.

Green's strong convictions have hardened him for survival even as they fuel his prejudice. His fears of a changing, incomprehensible world conflict with a compassion for his fellow human beings. Though he courts death, his ranting and raving and other raucous antics show his passion for life.

In contrast, the usually versatile Williams delivers a one-note "angry young man" performance. His lines simmer with pain, loneliness, and frustration in dealing with his new



THE CAST of "Falsettos"—Lynn Sherman, Rito Asilo, Jenny Jamora, Joel Trinidad, Lily Chu, Joshua Ramirez and Jake Macapagal

POPULAR theater personality Michael Williams (right) pits talent with equally popular veteran actor Miguel Faustmann in "Visiting Mr. Green."

friend and the latter's possible rejection of his homosexuality. Sometimes, Williams' tense, subdued anger almost filters out Ross' humorous actions and lines in this drama-comedy.

Finally, old and young Jew cross the bridge of distrust; they embrace, finding in one another the family that they have lost. The respect and (platonic) love that shine from the stage promise that they can work out the few loose ends left. The beginning friendship that the play seals between straight old Jew and his modern gay buddy is accepting, if respectful of differences, an authentic, unconditional warmth softening lingering restraints. What could have been climactic mush is transformed into a healthy, recognizable realism.

"Falsettos" runs at the Music Museum until Aug. 3. Call NVC at 896-6695, 896-5497 and 899-0630. "Visiting Mr. Green" runs at the RCBC Plaza Building until July 21. Call 633-4821 to -25.

Patriotic fervor and Tribung Pinoy

By Antonio C. Hila
Contributor

THE FILIPINO'S innate musicality has been evident since time immemorial, as attested by the Spanish-friar chroniclers. Now as then, music is an essential component of our national life. This is particularly shown in ensemble singing.

For almost a generation now, Tribung Pinoy has become part of the national musical experience. The group continues to be part of our vibrant living tradition in the musical arts. It has enriched our musical life by its rendition of Philippine songs arranged or composed by our leading composers. Talk about songs—filial, patriotic and romantic—and Tribung Pinoy would certainly have them in its wide repertoire.

Recently at the Tanghalang Leandro V. Locsin of the National Commission for Culture and the Arts, Tribung Pinoy charmed a good number of listeners with its fine rendition of a full program of love songs in a concert dubbed



"MUTYA NG SILANGAN." Vladimir Valera, baritone; Joanna Go, mezzo soprano; Gloria D. Coronel, soprano and Roger Peña Verde Jr., tenor

blended their voices well. With their brief tour de force in the love songs, they capped their songs fittingly with Guzman's "Bayan Ko" and Canseco's controversial, "Ako ay Pilipino."

Madrigal

At the Philam Life Theater later, the Madz impressed the audience with its excellence. Now in the hands of choirmaster Mark Anthony Carpio, whom founding choirmaster, National Artist Andrea O. Veneracion, hand-picked, the Madz has continued to carry on the fine choral tradition. We are happy the new conductor has capably led a premiere choir of international caliber. The Madz will leave for its North American concert tour this month.

The program was formidable, especially the first part that opened with scores by Francisco Pelicano ("Ilawan sa Takipsilim"), Ryan Cayabyab ("Aquesta Me Guibaba") and Joy T. Nilo ("Three Fugal works"), a setting of Ilocano sacred songs.

Singing was complemented with a bit of acting, the Madrigal way, which emphasizes finesse and restraint, notably in Eudene Palaruan's setting of Onib Almeda's poem, "History of the Philippines," "Sago at Gulaman" and Veneracion-Borela's "Bahay Kubo."

The Madz' way of programming has never failed to elicit appreciation from the audience. This is achieved by getting the attention of the audience through rapturous choral sounds at the start, when it sings difficult and meaty pieces, followed by relaxing songs spiced with a comical touch towards the end.

The virtuosity of the groups lies in its ability to dish different kinds of sounds associated with different stylistic nuances. It could be flowing and elegant as in Rheinberger's "Salve Regina"; full-throated as in "Aquesta Me Guibaba" and Whitacre's "Water Night"; symphonic with a touch of ethnic eeriness as in Pelicano's "Ilawan sa Takipsilim"; and rhythmically bouncy in the Williams' arrangement of Gershwin's "Summertime" and Barnett's arrangement of the spiritual "Joshua Fit the Battle of Jericho."

One felt that more soprano voices were needed in the thick, big passages of such songs as "Aquesta" and "Water Night," but the intensity with which the songs were rendered was simply astounding. We are certain the Madz will capture the American audience, they way it captured their European audiences. Bon voyage!

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"Mutya ng Silangan." Organized by the Department of Tourism and the NCCA, the program featured two mainstay singers of the ensemble, soprano Gloria Dixon-Coronel and baritone Vladimir Valera, together with up and coming talents, mezzo soprano Joanna Go and tenor Roger Peña Verde. Collaborating artist was Julie Mendoza, a founding member of the group. Dr. Leticia R. Shahani, presidential adviser for culture and the arts, lauded the singular effort of entrepreneur and art patron Danny L. Dolor in founding and sustaining Tribung Pinoy, which has consistently showcased Philippine songs.

Beyond nostalgia, the songs afforded their listeners a glorious moment to be touched by the ennobling sentiment of Philippine music. The mighty nationalist tradition of Philippine music towered supremely, reminding the listeners that indeed, such a tradition is alive and kicking. And in this era of globalization, such a tradition is a most welcome shield against foreign cultural domination. The opening songs, "Sa Sariling Bayan" by Tolentino and "Canto Patriotico de Maria Clara" by Hernandez, were rendered movingly by Valera and Coronel. They immediately kindled patriotic fervor, which all the

more burned in the duo's passionate rendition of the popular "Filipinas Kong Mahal" by nationalist composer Francisco Santiago.

Equally striking was Peña Verde's rendition of "Kalayaan, Ipaglaban Mo" by Velarde from the *sarswela* "Walang Sugat," and "Jocelynang Baliwag," the kundiman of the revolution. A lighter mood soon took over with Go's renditions of Suarez's "Sa Libis ng Nayon" and Abelardo's "Mutya ng Pasig."

Tribu displayed its command of both solo and ensemble singing. Gloria and Vladimir were as dependable as ever. Despite a coronary bypass, Vladimir was dynamic as ever, his voice rich, blessed and alluring. Talk about stage presence, Gloria is such a phenomenon! She was impeccable in De Guzman's "Panaypay ng Maynila" with her eloquence in vocal semiotics, demonstrating the many languages of the fan. Peña Verde showed potential as a budding singer. Go cut an elegant figure on the stage. Charming and pretty, she sang with dignity. However, the low tones were too chesty that one failed to appreciate the depth of the mezzo voice. She refused to give the high note of "Mutya ng Pasig," betraying the dramatic intention of the piece.

In the ensemble numbers, the singers

The great musical life of Paolo Santos

AT PIPER'S on Carlos Palanca Street in Makati at around nine, yuppies unwind from a hard day's work by dining, drinking, talking shop and generally creating a racket. But the cacophony is somehow made sonorous by the lively but intimate singing and guitar-playing of J. Paolo V. Santos. A James Taylor in his own right, Paolo can shift from folk to jazz and, since he obliges to popular requests, to Top 40 with ease, aplomb, and with unabashed showmanship.

Just turned 27 last month, Paolo is one of the more promising folk-jazz soloists in a scene turned askew by rock and hip-hop bands with a penchant for busting ears. His singing doesn't overwhelm as much as disarm. His massage of the acoustic guitar does not bewilder as much as seduce. If you care to listen, he can become your best friend.

With no formal music education, Paolo started singing less than two years ago. Right after high school, he would have wanted to go to the music conservatory, but was convinced by his elders to take up a "safer" course. He took the advice, earned a BS Economics, and got a fellowship in international relations in Geneva, Switzerland. When he came back, he worked as a salesman and considered a job in economic research. But he decided that unless he took up a Master's, the prospect would not be good. Moreover, his heart, at that moment, belonged to music. So he entered music-playing. In any case, economic research would be a good fallback.

Paolo started playing one night every week at Art Ave., a bar and restaurant along Pearl Drive, in Ortigas Center. He has been performing there since and in other gigs, particularly Piper's, aside from taking engagements in and out of Metro Manila (at one time, a bar habitue captivated by his music asked him to play in his wedding reception—in Bacolod).

Paolo sings diverse songs, some of them dating before his time. He rearranges them in a contemporary vein to bridge the generation gap. His music has touches of James Taylor, Kenny Loggins, Kenny Rankin, and Stephen Bishop. "The influence of those men have simply become so pervasive no folk and jazz singer can escape it," he says. But he can also do a mean falsetto whenever he obliges an audience asking him to sing a Patti Austin or a Vanessa Williams.

Jazz piano great Don Randi coming to Manila

WORLD-RENOWN jazz pianist Don Randi, creator of monster pop hits like "Be My Baby" by the Ronettes, the Righteous Brothers' "You've Lost that Lovin' Feeling," Nancy Sinatra's "These Boots are Made for Walkin'," and the Beach Boys' "Help Me Rhonda" and "Good Vibrations," will be conducting a series of jazz and fusion clinics and concerts in Manila on Oct. 10-16.

Randi will be accompanied by members of the US jazz band Quest, who will assist him in teaching the basics and the latest techniques of jazz music to budding Filipino musicians. But first, Don Randi and Quest will show their stuff in a series of evening concerts on Oct. 10, 11 and 12 at Metro Manila venues to be announced later. These will segue into the jazz and fusion clinics to be held from 1-4 p.m. on Oct. 14 at the University of the Philippines College of Music; Oct. 15 at the University of Santo Tomas Conservatory of Music; and Oct. 16 at the Angelo King Center for the Performing Arts of the De La Salle University in Ayala Alabang.

The clinics will be conducted free of charge. Participants will be mainly students and alumni of the host conservatories.

The Don Randi and Quest clinics and concerts are organized by the Mass Up-Scale Entertainment and Events (Muse.E), a Filipino musical events organizers and talent promoter advocating the development of Filipino musicians for world-class performances.

Muse.E is calling on organizations and individuals who believe in the Filipino talent to support the cause by participating as sponsors of the Don Randi and Quest jazz and fusion clinics and concerts.

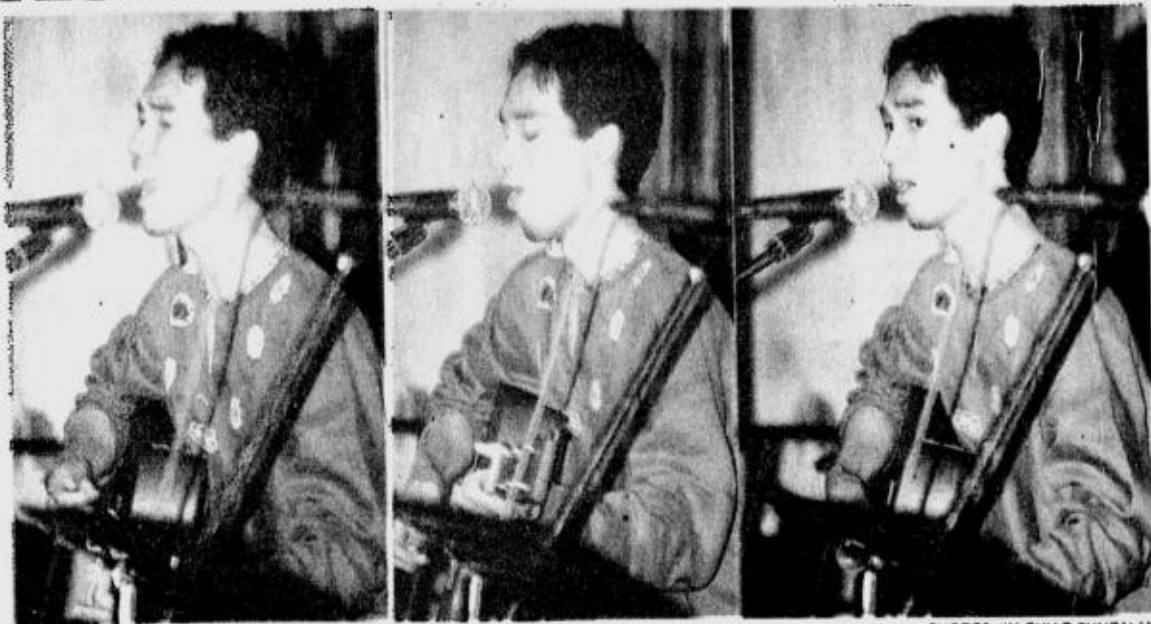
The Muse.E office is at 1019-1023 San Marcelino St., Ermita, Manila. Call 484-1677 or 484-0113.



DON RANDI AND QUEST. From left, Jummy Mahlis (guitar); Ric Flerabracci (bass); Don Randi (piano/keyboard); Peter Korpela (percussion) and Jason Harnell (drums)

Paolo has also begun a radio program (89.1 FM, 8 p.m., replayed at midnight), which is entertaining as well as educational. In it, he acquaints listeners with modern-day songwriters—three at a time—by performing a piece by each of them.

The program shows not only his musical prowess, but that special quality of intimacy and familiarity that endear him to his audience, whether in the bar or on the air. "There are many better voices and quicker fingers on the guitar, but I seem to have been able to put myself together well," he says. "It's not only a fair living, it's a great life."



THE YOUNG musician in action

PHOTOS: JIM GUIAO PUNZALAN

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Licad's intimate tryst, Chilean conspiracy, Mike's farewell, Mang Ben's milestone

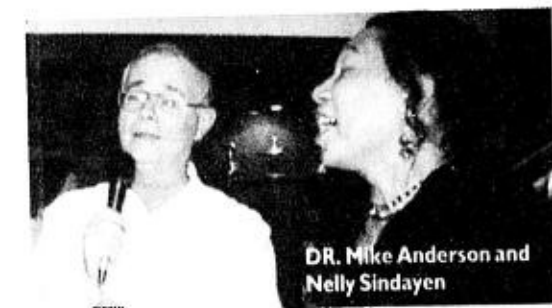


DR. Mike Anderson, Dr. Bernardita Churchill and US Ambassador Francis Ricciardone



FORTUNE Ledesma, Secretary and Ms Roilo Golez and Spanish Ambassador Tomas Pantoja

PHOTOS BY BETOY JOHNSON



DR. Mike Anderson and Nelly Sindayen



ISRAELI Ambassador Irit Ben Abba and Ambassador Herbert Jess



MICHELINE Jess and Cecile Licad



TERESA Tressler, Chilean Ambassador Carmen Lynam, the Ambassador's mother Nora Narvaez, Elisa Garces, Consul Frank Tressler and Counselor Jose Miguel Menchaca



BEN Farrales acknowledges well-wishers at the close of his triumphant show.

HOW LUCKY can some people get? The much-coveted, by-invitation-only concert of class artist **Cecile Licad** at the residence of German Ambassador **Herbert Jess** was an outstanding success. The reception was billed as "Homage to Rizal," since it was held on June 19, the national hero's birthday. UNESCO Commissioner **Felice Sta. Maria** gave her remarks after the ambassador welcomed the guests, who were so numerous, there were people literally hanging from the rafters.

But Licad played intimately, performing Schubert, Liszt and "12 Etudes" by Chopin, as though she was playing just for you!

Paz Yuchengco says that Licad is one of the greatest concert pianists in the world today. After the concert, **Letty Syquia** remarked that Cecile makes you proud to be a Filipina these days—when it sure is difficult to find something to be proud about what all those morons playing to the gallery. **Imelda Marcos**, according to glam daughter, **Irene**

DIPLOMATIC SWIRL

By Amiga

Araneta, was bringing favorite artist **Cecile** to play in "Malacañang Ti Amlanin" the following day.

SINCE there is, I believe, a conspiracy to prevent me from losing 10 pounds, I must confess that the Chilean Wine Festival at the Mandarin Oriental, hosted by gracious Chilean Ambassador **Carmen Lynam** and attended by **Alfonso Larrain**, chair of the Concha y Toro company, was worth every luscious drop and calorie. I have to report, I trotted over obediently to **Tita Trillo's** Anthony's Grand Cellar the following day and acquired a couple of bottles for a dinner at the recommendation of **Ma. Belle del Rosario**. The full-bodied **Castillero del Diablo** (Castle of the Devil) Cabernet Sauvignon went especially well with the roast beef served at the Chilean buffet that evening.

Forget about the guilt trip. There were excellent salmon croquettes that blended very well with the light-bodied Sauvignon Blanc, even as one became heavier bodied. But who cares? You really should try Chilean Bass cakes with a green sauce, and if you're really good, I'll share the recipe with you. All things considered, my unsolicited advice would be that we should have more of these food and wine-tasting experiences for the good of our souls.

AFTER four years of service as information chief of the US embassy, **Dr. Michael Anderson** will return to the United States. Mike's many friends and acquaintances made their way to the reception at the residence of US Ambassador **Francis and Marie Ricciardone** (who is modest, simple and quietly brainy without making a fuss about it) to bid him, as they say, a fond farewell. We also missed **Dr. Frank Jenista**, who had come in to sub for press attaché **Karen Kelly**, who was out of the country for much needed R & R when the end of the Abu Sayyaf kidnapping splattered all over the front pages. Hopefully, there's always a next time for get-togethers, and it won't be in the midst of still another crisis.

MASTER couturier **Ben Farrales'** eagerly awaited milestone show marking his 50 years in high fashion, came last Monday with confetti dropping from the ceiling and armloads of exotic blooms at the ballroom of the Makati Shangri-La. Past, present and future met in flowing gowns and expressed the best of his artistic talents. Friends **Mary Prieto**, **Aurora Pijuan** and **Rosa Rosal** gave their accolades and reminiscences. Manila's fashionistas—**Nedie Tantoco**, former Ambassador **Isabel Wilson**, **Abla Assad**, **Justa Tantoco**, Sen. **Loi Estrada**, **Criselda Lontoc**, **Carolyn Masibay**, **Marylou Prieto**, and **Nenuca Blardony**—showed off their finery. One thing about Mang Ben is that his customers are his good friends as well, such as **Nelly Bengson**, **Melly Ablaza**, **Thelma Gana** and of course, what he refers to as his "Bel-Air Barkada." Congratulations, Mang Ben!

LICAD'S/p.E5



SID Hildawa, Kunal Merchandani, Behn Cervantes, Dodo Lim and Ed Cabagnot

Art-house cinema opens in Makati

FOR PEOPLE who appreciate film, the launch of ArtFilm Greenbelt 1 last July 2 was a breath of fresh air. It was not only a celebration of filmmaking as an artistic craft. It was also an opportunity to recognize alternative cinema for its merits. ArtFilm Greenbelt 1 will be a fertile playground for the cutting edge and critically acclaimed as it features independent productions, foreign picks and festival favorites to the local moviegoing public.

ArtFilm Greenbelt 1's opening salvo, "Iris," exemplifies the best of alternative cinema. This independent production is a critically acclaimed adaptation of the life of writer, philosopher and "the most brilliant woman in England"—**Iris Murdoch**. Hailing from Britain, the film is a poignant story of enduring affection among two scholars and how their love triumphs over time and a debilitating Alzheimer's disease.

Despite the heavy downpour, luminaries from the art and film community managed to drop by, from veteran directors **Behn Cervantes** and **Tikoy Aguiluz**, to journalistic heavyweight **Amando Doronila**. Representatives from the Cultural Center of the Philippines, Movie and Television Review and Classification Board and various film production outfits were also in attendance.



TIKOY Aguiluz and Carol Guerrero

The event was kicked off with cocktails and a book exhibit on the literary works of **Iris Murdoch**, which included titles like "The Italian Girl," "Jackson's Dilemma," "The Black Prince" and "The Nice and the Good," among others. This allowed guests and Murdoch fans to browse through her writings and experience the genius and purity of her text.

The ribbon-cutting ceremony soon followed, with film director **Chito Roño**, actress **Chinchin Gutierrez**, broadcaster and NU 107 sales and marketing head **Apa Ongpin** and **Ayala Land Inc.** president **Mr. Francisco H. Licuanan III**, officially opening the venue.



DAVE Rafael, Virgie Moreno and Raffy Prats



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Licad's ...

From page E4

AMBASSADOR Enrique Syquia and Russian
Ambassador Anatoli Khmelintzki

JOHNNY Delgado and Laurice Guillen



JOSE Rodriguez and Valentina Khmelintzki

Collections
by emerging
young poets

THE UP Creative Writing Center, in cooperation with the UP College of Arts and Letters and Vargas Museum, will launch books by three contemporary poets in Filipino.

"Apokripas" by Jerry Arcega-Gracio contains meditative pieces of mostly confessional poetry. Man's constant struggle with God is the main theme. A multi-awarded writer, Gracio also writes scripts for movies and television. He won the grand prize in the 1999 Film Development Foundation of the Philippines Scriptwriting Contest for his screenplay "Santasantita."

Mesandel Virtusio Arguelles, two-time winner of the Gawad Komisyon sa Tula, comes up with his first poetry collection, "Menos Kuwarta." Arguelles is noted for his lyricism, combining traditional Filipino poetic forms with a wide range of Asian and Western literary influences. His book is a testament to the growing trend in Filipino poetry to be cosmopolitan without losing native roots.

With "Samsara," his third book, Allan Popa proves that he is one of the brightest voices in contemporary Filipino poetry. His first book, "Hunos" (Artista Publications, 2000), shows him a master of form and language, while "Morpo" (Collective Axis, 2001) features his ability to translate his poetic vision into brilliant poetry. "Samsara" presents Popa at his best, a poet of grand imagination and lucid insight.

"Apokripas" and "Menos Kuwarta" are both published by the Pithaya Press, while "Samsara" is published by the Amado V. Hernandez Resource Center and High Chair.

The launch will be held on July 12, 5 p.m., at the Vargas Museum, UP Diliman. It will feature a poetry reading by important poets in Filipino and noted film celebrities. Call the UP Creative Writing Center at 922-1830 or contact (0919) 501-0069, (0919) 696-4099.

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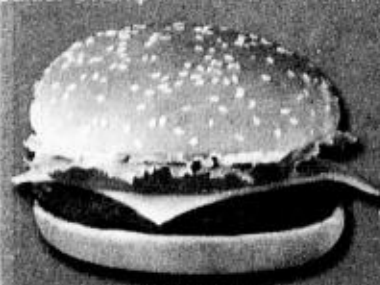


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MIKROKOSMOS

BY JOMIKE TEJIDO



HOROSCOPE
BY EUGENIA LAST

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Kevin Bacon, Steve Lawrence, Anjelica Huston, Kim Darby
Happy Birthday: You'll be generous, outgoing, knowledgeable and an asset to any group you join this year. If you see someone you'd like to get to know better, pursue him or her. Your ability to learn and to implement what you know will be one of your attributes throughout the year. Your numbers are 9, 12, 15, 22, 25, 38

- ARIES** (March 21-April 19): The more you have to do with intellectual groups, the better your chances for reaching your dreams, hopes and wishes. Listen to your friends. Their advice will be valuable.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Clear up any unfinished personal business today. You will be able to get ahead in your chosen field if you are prepared to present and push your ideas. It, but be to make a move if you must.
- GEMINI** (May 21-June 20): Someone may be trying to hold you back. Be wary when it comes to personal matters. Take care of things yourself. If you rely on someone else, you are likely to be disappointed.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Make use of your added discipline today. If there is something you are trying to accomplish, work on it by yourself in a place where you won't get interrupted.
- LEO** (July 23-Aug. 22): Partnerships can be formed and deals can be made. Someone will lend you a helping hand. Your enthusiasm will capture interest and help you get closer to success.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): You must stop letting your personal life interfere with your productivity. Once you get things back into perspective you will move toward your goals. Think and take action.
- LIBRA** (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Let your creative talent work for you. Consider starting your own business on the side. Partnerships will not be as they appear, so avoid joint financial ventures.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Your heart will be in the right place, but you'll be too busy trying to make money. Try not to overlook something that is important to the people you care about.
- SAGITTARIUS** (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): You are a crusader by nature and today will be no exception. You will end up leading the pack. If something doesn't appear to be fair to you, do something about it. You'll be glad you did.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): You can make a difference if you lend a helping hand to someone you do business with. Your kind gesture will not be forgotten. You may want to set aside some time for yourself.
- AQUARIUS** (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): This is a great day to meet someone new. Interacting with people who have similar interests will result in a lasting friendship. Join in and have some fun at an event that you find stimulating.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): You may feel added responsibility in your personal life. Too much work and no play will leave you feeling lethargic. Creative hobbies coupled with the use of your great imagination will be rewarding.

DAILY CROSSWORD

ACROSS

1 Belgrade resident

5 Pieces for two

10 Actor Omar

14 Loton additive

15 Retract one's words

16 Short-tailed rodent

17 TV antenna

19 Gannon University city

20 Shoe part

21 At the trial stage

23 Plunking sound

25 Boar's mate

26 Former draft org.

27 Author Fleming

30 Tallow base

32 Neeson of "Schindler's List"

34 Bumpkin

36 Robert Louis and Teotilo

40 Facilitates

42 Anger

43 Outfit for C. Yeager

44 Nonconductor

47 Needle case

48 Pink baby?

49 Pub offerings

51 That woman

52 Costello or Farrigno

54 State off.

56 Vegas machine

58 World of scholars

61 Acted high and mighty

65 Actress Theda

66 Detective

68 Automobile pioneer

69 Moray catcher

70 Farm measure

71 Reckless

72 Prescribed amounts

73 Accomplishes

DOWN

1 Rian's garb

2 Verve

3 Steals

4 Jazz style

5 Obedient

6 Nice one?

7 Isaac's eldest

8 Mountain lakes

9 Heart contraction

10 Holiday preludes

11 New Hampshire city

12 Layers

13 Burpee purchase

18 Afflictions

22 J.R. of "Dallas"

24 Little in Little

27 Chilled

28 Jai

29 Middle linenmen

31 cotta

33 African fox

35 Where heroes are made?

37 Face coverings

38 New Zealand island territory

39 Be up and about

41 Suit material

45 Walked heavily and noisily

46 Basements

50 Chimney dirt

52 Toll

53 Central Florida city

55 Small, green bird

57 Tire pattern

59 Short race

60 Is not well

62 Art

63 Bronte novel, "Jane..."

64 Barely passing grades

67 Victory sign

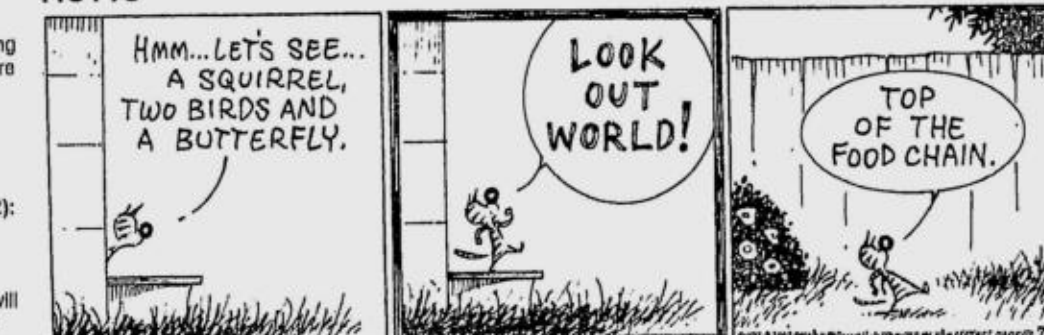
BEN

BY DANIEL SHELTON



MUTTS

BY PATRICK McDONNELL



KIKO MACHINE

BY MANIX ABRERA



LOVEKNOTS

BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO



TULDOK

BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING



Ballet Manila stages swashbuckler

HAVE a swashbuckling time as Ballet Manila, in cooperation with Star Theater, stages the second all-Filipino, full-length performance of the exciting classic, "Le Corsaire" (The Pirate). Shows are at 1 p.m. and 5 p.m. on July 25 and 28, Aug. 1-2 and 4.

On July 26, 27 and Aug. 3, shows will be at 1 p.m. and 7 p.m. All performances will be at the Star Theater at Star City, CCG Complex, Roxas Boulevard, Pasay City.

According to Ballet Manila artistic director and principal ballerina, Lisa Macuja-Elizalde, "Le Corsaire" was performed by the company five years ago, in collaboration with guest artists from the Siberian State Ballet, formerly the Krasnoyarsk Ballet Company of Russia.

This, however, will be the second full-length staging with homegrown ballerinas

MELANIE
Motus as
Guinara and
Jeffrey Espejo
as Lankadem

and danseurs. "Le Corsaire," based on the 1814 poem by Lord Byron, was choreographed by the legendary Marius Petipa. It will be re-staged for BM by ballet master and principal danseur Osi Barroso, together with guest ballet master Viktor Saveliev.

"Le Corsaire," says Macuja-Elizalde, "has all the elements of a magical adventure—shipwrecks, slave markets, exotic harems in a magnificent kingdom, a treasure cave, sword fights. It's non-stop excitement at the ballet for the whole family."

Call Ballet Manila at 512-5031, 512-5032, 525-1584 or 525-5967. Visit the BM website at www.ballet-manila.net.



LISA Macuja-Elizalde as Medora and Osi Barroso as Conrad



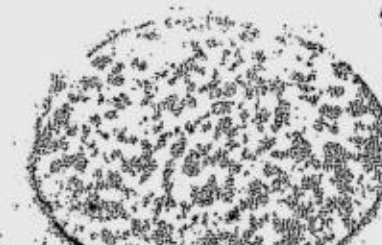
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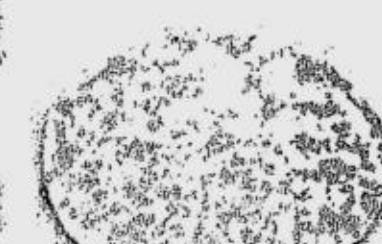
SUPREMA



CLASSICA



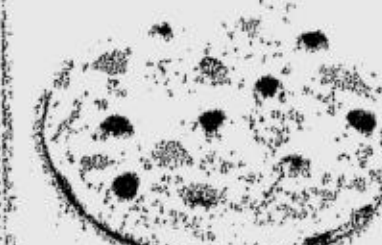
MAIS CON QUESO



HAMON CON QUESO



PIÑA JAMON CON QUESO



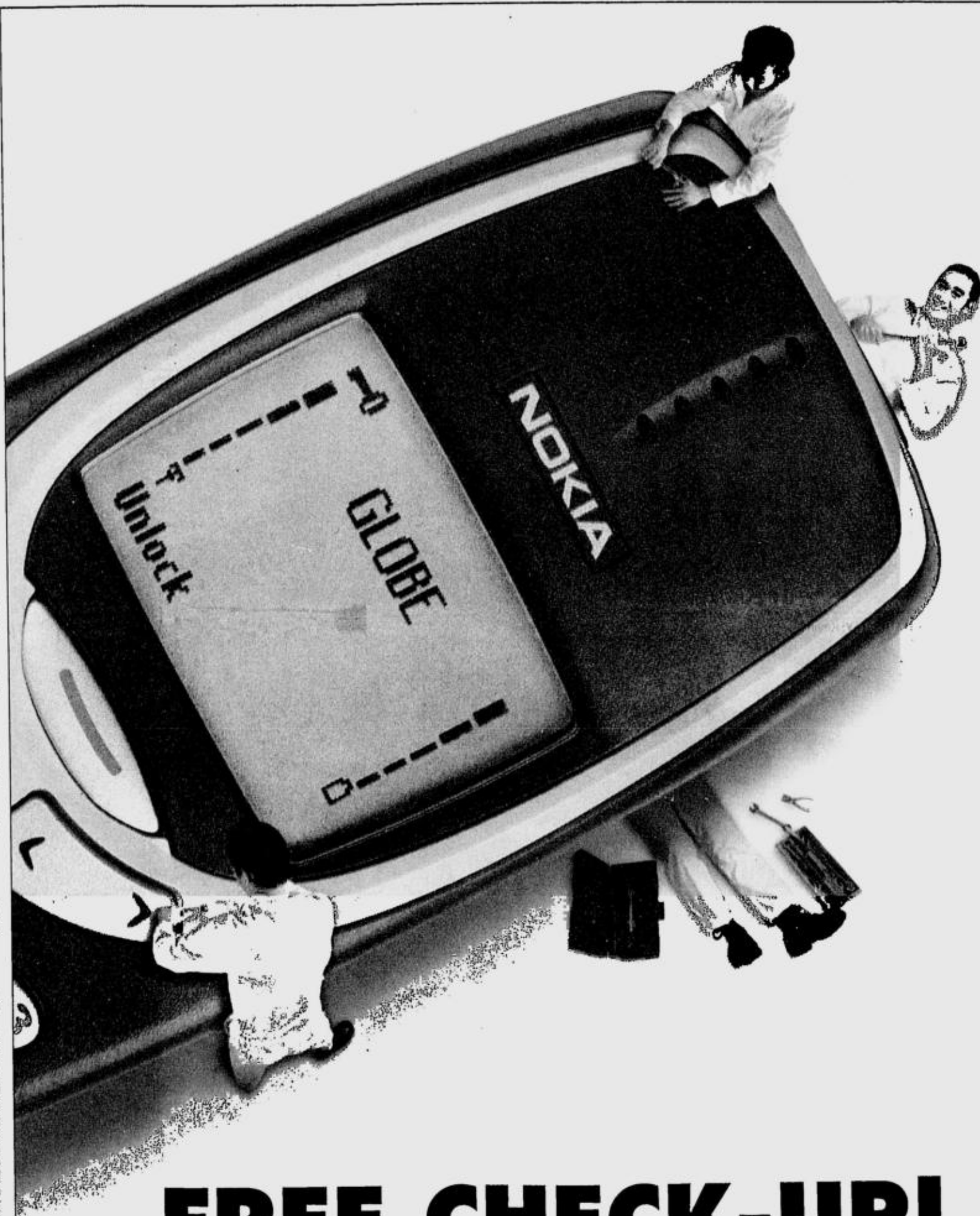
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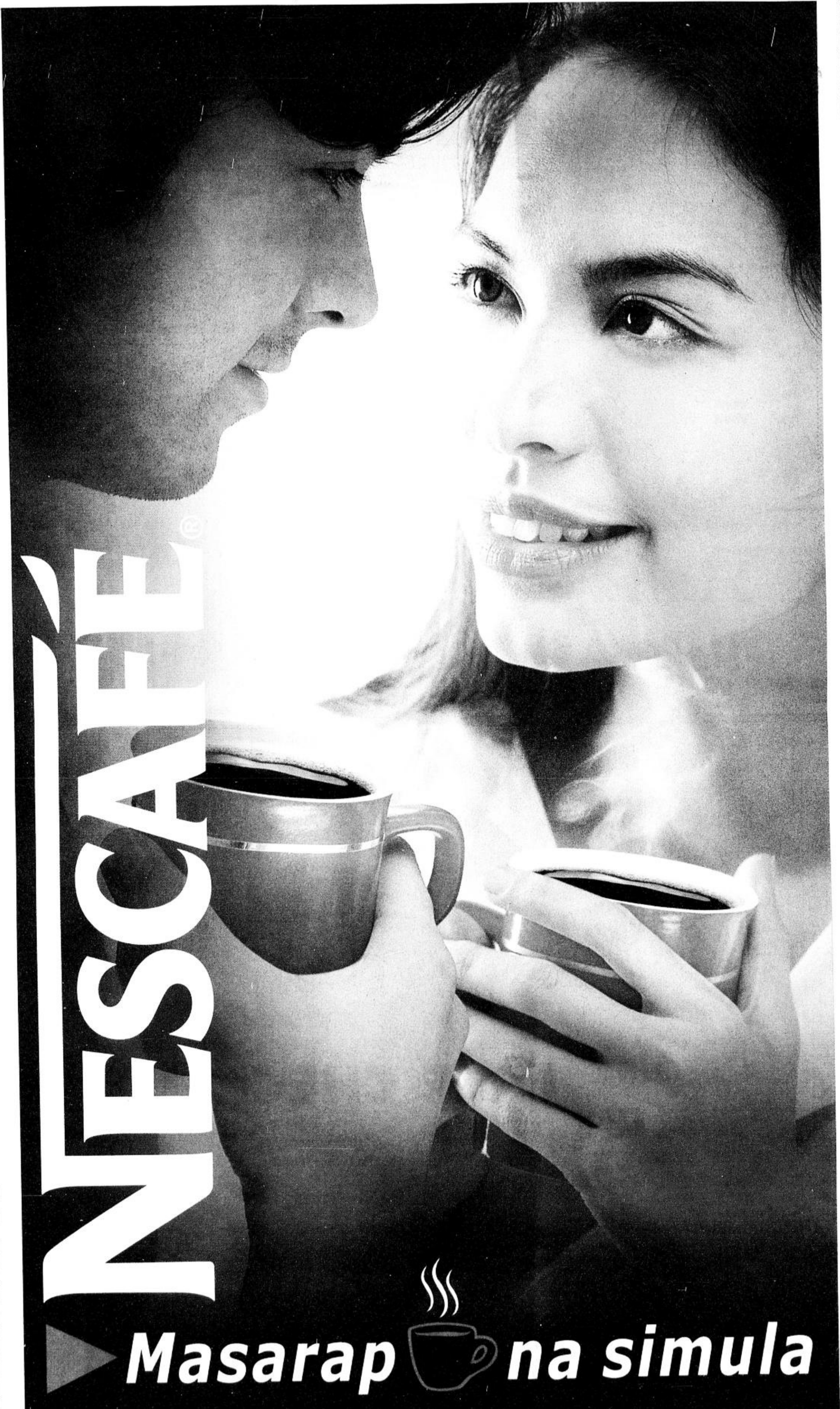
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